WWII'S MOST SIGNIFICANT BATTLES

STEPHEN AND MATILDA: ENGLAND'S MEDIEVAL CIVIL WAR

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WELCOME OCTOBER 2020

Victoria, Albert and their nine children were the epitome of Victorian family life

The Victorian period is often seen as a golden age in British history – **a time of great innovation and technological advances**. But it was also an era of conflict and colonisation, when Britain's influence stretched across a quarter of the world's surface. **And it was a time of abject poverty for many people – a stark contrast to the riches that were pouring in from across the empire.** This month, we've teamed up with Professor Sarah Richardson at the University of Warwick, to explore the Victorian age – from Queen Victoria and the royal family, to crime and punishment, innovations and empire. Turn to page 26 to read more.

Less well-known than Queen Victoria – in Europe at least – is another formidable queen, **Nzinga, who ruled the African kingdoms of Ndongo and Matamba (in modern-day Angola) during the first half of the 17th century**, fighting determinedly against European colonisation and for her right to rule. We explore her remarkable life and reign from page 55.

Elsewhere, we **examine 11 significant battles of World War II – from Pearl Harbor to Stalingrad** (*page 60*); discuss how Russian, and European, history might have been different had the Romanovs survived in 1918 (*page 70*); and **chart the downfall of Elizabethan favourite Sir Walter Raleigh** (*page 16*). We also share the results of our recent lockdown competition, in which children aged 6–13 wrote us a postcard from the perspective of a historical character living in a past lockdown. Turn to page 66 to see the winning entrants. Plus, in this month's 'In a Nutshell' feature, **we break down The Anarchy**, the tumultuous 12th-century battle for the throne of England, which saw the country plunged into civil war. (*page 21*).

Finally, **don't forget to check out this month's great subscription deals.** Turn to page 24 for more details.

Until next month, stay safe.

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor

THIS MONTH'S BIG NUMBERS

90
How long in minutes the attack on Pearl Harbor lasted – more than 400 Japanese planes were involved

162,000
The number of convicts transported from Britain to Australia between 1787 and 1868

42
The number of grandchildren that Queen Victoria and Prince Albert had

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▲ Queen Nzinga of Ndongo and Matamba fought back against European colonisation

▲ Are these the 11 most significant battles of World War II?

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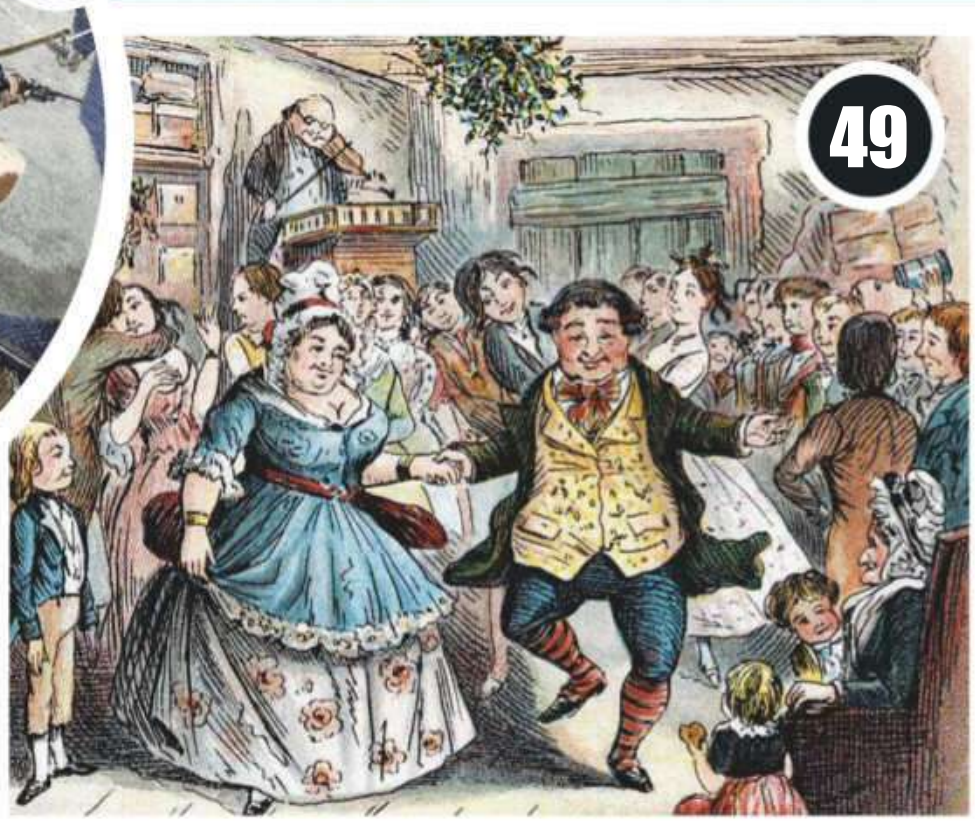
◀ British expansion often came at a bloody price



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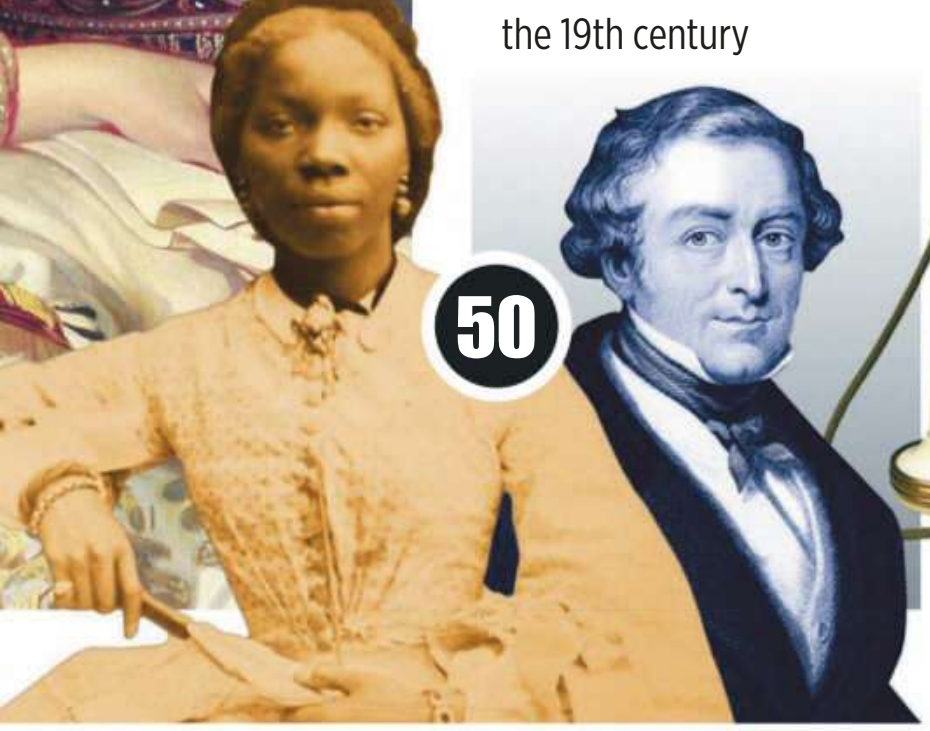

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▲ Victoria's reign was a period of great innovation

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SNAPSHOTS

1950s
FULL OF AIR

British soldiers carry a decoy inflatable tank during a training exercise on Salisbury Plain. Decoy tanks like these were used in World War II, for instance before the D-Day landings: the inflatables could trick an enemy into believing that their opponents had more military vehicles than they actually did, and also mask the last preparations for an offensive.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

c1900 CITY OF DREAMS?

At the turn of the 20th century, much of New York City had been transformed into a thriving metropolis, bolstered by immigration throughout the previous century. What you see here is Mulberry Street in Lower Manhattan, at the heart of Little Italy – a district named for its adoption by inbound Italians. The street runs through an area once known as Five Points – a very dangerous slum. But, despite some improvements to living conditions in the later 19th century, most immigrants still faced abysmal living conditions on their arrival in New York at the time this photograph was taken.

COMING UP: In next month's issue we'll be taking a closer look at immigrant living conditions in New York City at the turn of the 20th century, through the lens of social documentary photographer Jacob Riis.

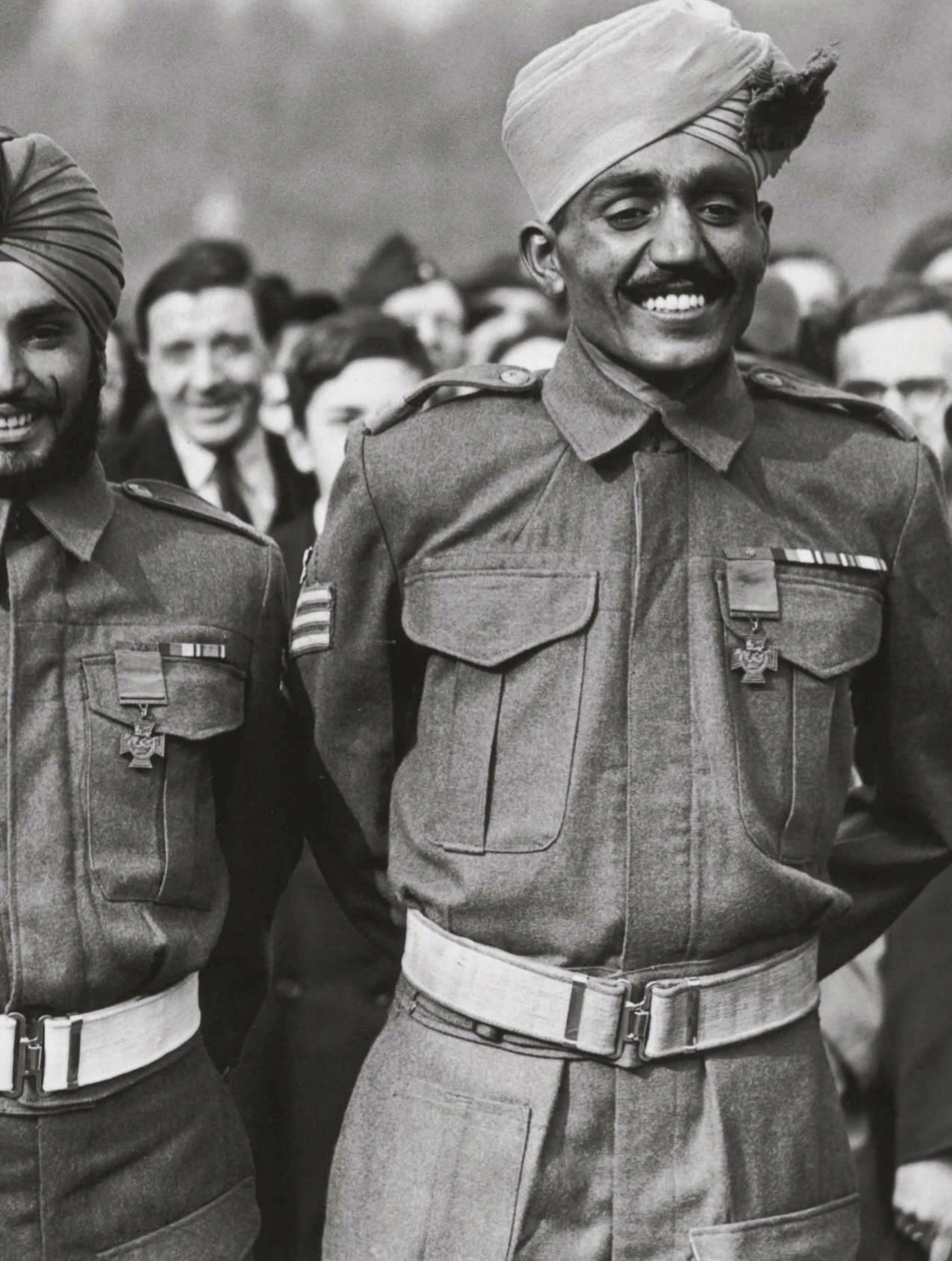
Alamy

SNAPSHOTS

1945
PRIDE AT THE PALACE

Smiling proudly, these soldiers from the 2nd Gurkha Rifles, the 15th Punjab Regiment and the Indian Artillery have just received their Victoria Crosses at Buckingham Palace – the highest honour for the British Armed Forces. Soldiers from all over the British Empire and the Commonwealth fought for the Allies during WWII, including men from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa. By 1945, 2.5 million men had joined the colonial Indian Army alone.

GETTY IMAGES



THINGS WE LEARNED THIS MONTH....

RECENT HISTORY HEADLINES THAT CAUGHT OUR EYE

ORIGIN OF STONEHENGE STONES REVEALED

Part of the mystery of Stonehenge's huge sarsen stones has finally been revealed, after a missing piece of the Neolithic monument was returned after 60 years. Robert Phillips, who was involved in the 1958 excavations of the site (*shown here in this photograph*), returned the core of one of the sarsen stones last year enabling archaeologists to analyse it. They have now ascertained that the 15 seven metre high stones that make up Stonehenge's central horseshoe are from a site 15 miles away, near Marlborough. How the builders of Stonehenge transported these 20 ton stones remains unclear, but work to find the extraction pits could hopefully uncover more about the people who built the enigmatic monument.

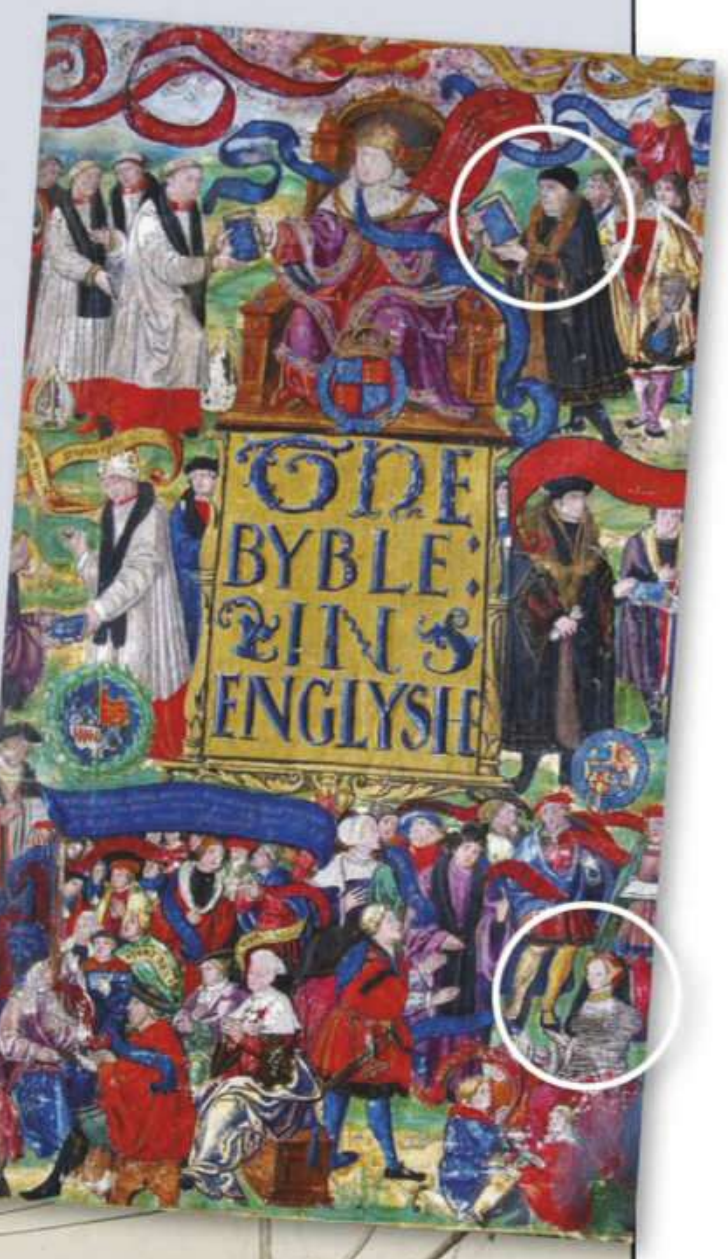
GETTY IMAGES X2, IAN MCKEE/ST JOHN'S COLLEGE X1, THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES X1, US NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION X1

GOOGLE RELEASES INNOVATIVE HIEROGLYPH TRANSLATOR

Google has launched a translator that allows people to transform their messages and emojis into Egyptian hieroglyphs. Using artificial intelligence, the feature known as Fabricius is now part of Google's Arts & Culture app and a version is also being offered to Egyptologists to help with their work. Users can upload photographs of real hieroglyphs which will subsequently be analysed. Meanings will then be offered via the database; this will become more extensive as more people use the app.

CROMWELL, THE TUDOR PHOTOSHOPPER?

The last known portrait of Henry VIII's chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, has been found, as well as evidence that he may have dabbled in image manipulation. A 1539 copy of the Great Bible (*shown below*) shows Tudor era changes, including a glued on image of Cromwell and the addition of a portrait of Henry VIII's third wife, Jane Seymour. It's thought that these alterations were made to improve Cromwell's reputation in the eyes of the king although he was executed the following year. The Great Bible, a project started by Cromwell, was the first authorised edition of the Bible in English.



EARLIEST CASE OF SMALLPOX IDENTIFIED

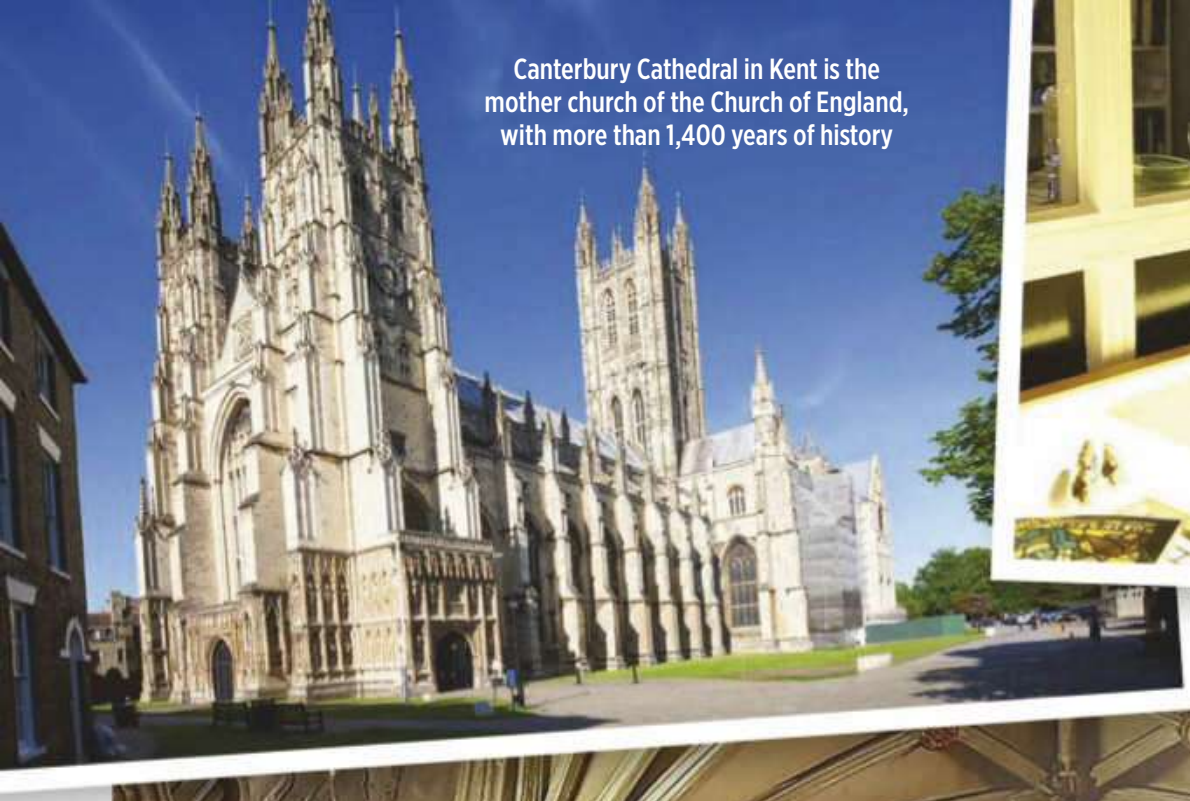
The Vikings have been pinpointed as the first super spreaders of smallpox. Researchers from the University of Cambridge and the University of Copenhagen have analysed the bones of nearly 2,000 people and discovered the smallpox virus in 11 men and women from Northern Europe who lived between 600 1050 AD. Before this discovery, the earliest confirmed case was a 17th century mummified child in Lithuania. This puts to bed the traditional idea that the virus was brought to Europe by soldiers returning from the Crusades.

WWI GERMAN SUBMARINE REVEALS SECRETS OF ITS FINAL MOMENTS

A German submarine has been explored for the first time since it sank during World War I, 103 years ago. *UC 47* was sunk by the Royal Navy in 1917 off the Yorkshire coast, with all its crew on board. It had been credited with sinking more than 50 vessels. The sinking of *UC 47* (*the sister of which* UC 44 *is shown below*) marked a change in Britain's fortunes against German submarines, as they developed depth charges and began strengthening the bows of their anti submarine vessels. preserved.

£100,000

The value of a hoard of silver British Civil War-era coins found by metal detectorist Luke Mahoney in Ipswich. He kept watch over the site for several nights to protect the find from illegal treasure hunters.



Canterbury Cathedral in Kent is the mother church of the Church of England, with more than 1,400 years of history

Leonie works on a stained glass cartoon in the cathedral's stained glass studio

"The main cause of deterioration of stained glass is water, in the form of rain or condensation"

PHOTOS BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE CHAPTER OF CANTERBURY

All 179 panels of glass in the Great South Window had to be removed while the surrounding masonry was repaired as part of an extensive seven-year restoration project

Director of Stained Glass Conservation, Canterbury Cathedral

Leonie Seliger

HOW DID YOU BEGIN WORKING WITH CANTERBURY'S STAINED GLASS?

In 1991, I was offered a post as junior glass painter and trainee conservator in the cathedral's stained glass conservation studio. My first experience remains one of the most exciting ones: the conservation of one of the Becket Miracle Windows. I fell in love with the cathedral's glass when, whilst painstakingly removing layer upon layer of dirt accretions from a piece of glass under the microscope, I realised that the tiny dot of paint I had discovered was actually part of a circle of several dots that made up a man's nipple. They had been painted with impossible precision, for a scene that was always intended to be six metres above ground; no one other than the painter would ever have appreciated the detail.

HOW ARE THE WINDOWS CARED FOR?

The cathedral's architect carries out a major inspection every five years. The stained glass department keeps a constant eye on all our windows, particularly after extreme weather events. The main cause of deterioration of stained glass is water, in the form of rain or condensation. Protective glazing ensures that the glass remain dry, but many of the cathedral's windows are still exposed to the elements. Corrosion crusts on the glass, fractures and deteriorating painted decoration, as well as failing structural support all need to be addressed by removing the glazing from the building and treating it in the conservation studio.

In addition, we see a million visitors per year to the cathedral, which leaves an awful lot of dust in the air dust which then settles on the windows. The cathedral's team of accredited and specialised conservators spend a great deal of time recording and cleaning each individual piece of glass, without dismantling the panels from their lead matrix.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT THE CATHEDRAL?

Aside from the glorious architecture, it's the fact that the medieval stained glass windows are really the only thing to have survived from the Middle Ages that still look pretty much as they did when they were new. They have been repaired, and have corroded and lost some of their painted detail, but compare that with the total loss of all the other artistic and decorative elements: the incredibly rich tapestries, the votive gifts hanging from railings, so much of the sculpture that would have adorned the exterior, and perhaps most of all, the loss of the wall paintings. St Gabriel's Chapel, in the cathedral crypt, gives a glimpse of what this building would have looked like in the 12th century. Then add clouds of incense, music, pilgrims praying and sharing stories.

Leonie heads up the conservation team which cares for the stained glass windows at Canterbury Cathedral

WHAT'S THE MOST IMPRESSIVE PROJECT YOU'VE WORKED ON?

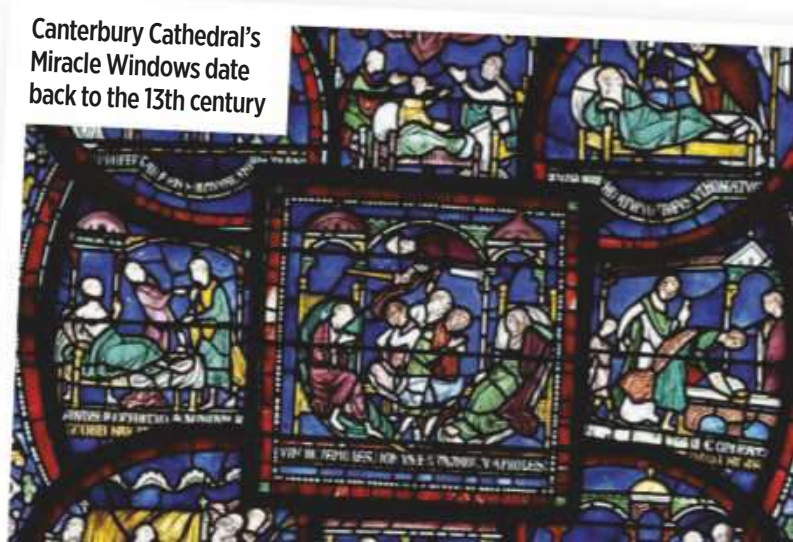
Most of the conservation projects at Canterbury are pretty impressive, be it for the age and importance of the glass, the discoveries made that have changed our understanding of the history of the glass or of the stories told in the windows, or because we learn something new and unexpected about medieval engineering.

For sheer size and complexity, however, it has to be the Great South Window. Several unforeseen elements came together in a (not so) perfect storm of events a leaking drain, a particularly hot summer, old unrecorded repairs that had reached the end of their serviceable life which resulted in a structural failure of the huge stone mullions that support the window. Because the causes were invisible until their effects became suddenly apparent, this was not part of our quinquennial plan. Thankfully, the cathedral's masonry and stained glass teams were able to deliver a rapid response, making the stone structure safe until we could investigate the causes of the failure and propose a plan of repair. The entire glazing, all 179 panels of stained glass dating from between 1176 and 1450, had to be removed, cleaned, and stored safely until the new stone structure was ready to receive it again.

WHAT'S THE WORST THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED DURING YOUR CAREER?

I feel incredibly lucky to be able to say that nothing truly bad has ever happened so far. But I am deeply worried that a major recession resulting from the coronavirus crisis may cause the conservation of our cultural treasures to be seen as an optional extra. If we lose the skills that are needed to care for them, to preserve them, and to tell their stories, they will be in real peril. Part of who we are as a nation and as people would disappear with them, and also the considerable income from tourism that places like Canterbury Cathedral generate for their local economy.

LEONIE SELIGER is Director of Canterbury Cathedral's Stained Glass Studio
canterbury-cathedral.org



Canterbury Cathedral's Miracle Windows date back to the 13th century

Walter Raleigh is executed

Words: Rhiannon Davies

ABOVE: **This portrait is said to be of Elizabeth Throckmorton, a gentlewoman of Elizabeth I's privy chamber – she and Raleigh married in secret**

LEFT: **Walter with his second son, also Walter, in 1602**

ALAMY X2, GETTY IMAGES X2

Stepping onto the scaffold that had been erected in the Old Palace Yard at Westminster, Sir Walter Raleigh prepared to face his death. An assortment of lords, many of whom Raleigh had once rubbed shoulders with, watched the disgraced courtier from a window that overlooked the scene. And countless commoners were thronged around the scaffold itself, all eager to witness an execution.

How had his life come to this? Raleigh had carefully manoeuvred himself to the upper echelons of Elizabethan society and now he was cast down into the mud, to die a traitor's death. His meteoric rise had begun 37 years ago, when he first settled at the English court and drew the attention of Elizabeth I. His handsome looks, propensity for adventure he helmed several expeditions to the New World, and is widely credited for bringing the potato and tobacco back to England and love of poetry no doubt all helped curry favour with the Virgin Queen, who soon looked upon him as one of her favourites.

Indeed, one particularly famous tale is associated with the pair: while they were enjoying a walk together, Raleigh apparently placed his velvet cloak over a puddle so that Elizabeth's dainty feet wouldn't get wet. The legitimacy of this story aside it first appears in Thomas Fuller's *History of the Worthies of England*, which was published around 80 years after this act of chivalry supposedly took place Elizabeth's affection for Raleigh has been extensively documented.

THE FIRST FALL FROM GRACE

In late 1584/early 1585, the gallant royal favourite was knighted, and subsequently given large amounts of land in Ireland. In 1587, Elizabeth even awarded him the sought after position of Captain of the Queen's Guard a move that vexed his rivals at court, including some of the queen's other favourites.

However, Raleigh eventually fell from favour. Elizabeth did not like to share her favourites, but Raleigh chose to stray. In secret, he had wed a gentlewoman of Elizabeth I's privy chamber in 1591 – ironically, she shared the queen's name, being Elizabeth (Bess) Throckmorton – and the two produced a child named Damerei Raleigh. The disgraced explorer was imprisoned in the Tower with his wife and child, to atone for offending his monarch. Sadly, Damerei succumbed to plague when an outbreak swept through the city, and Elizabeth took pity on grieving Bess and proclaimed that she was free to leave the Tower.

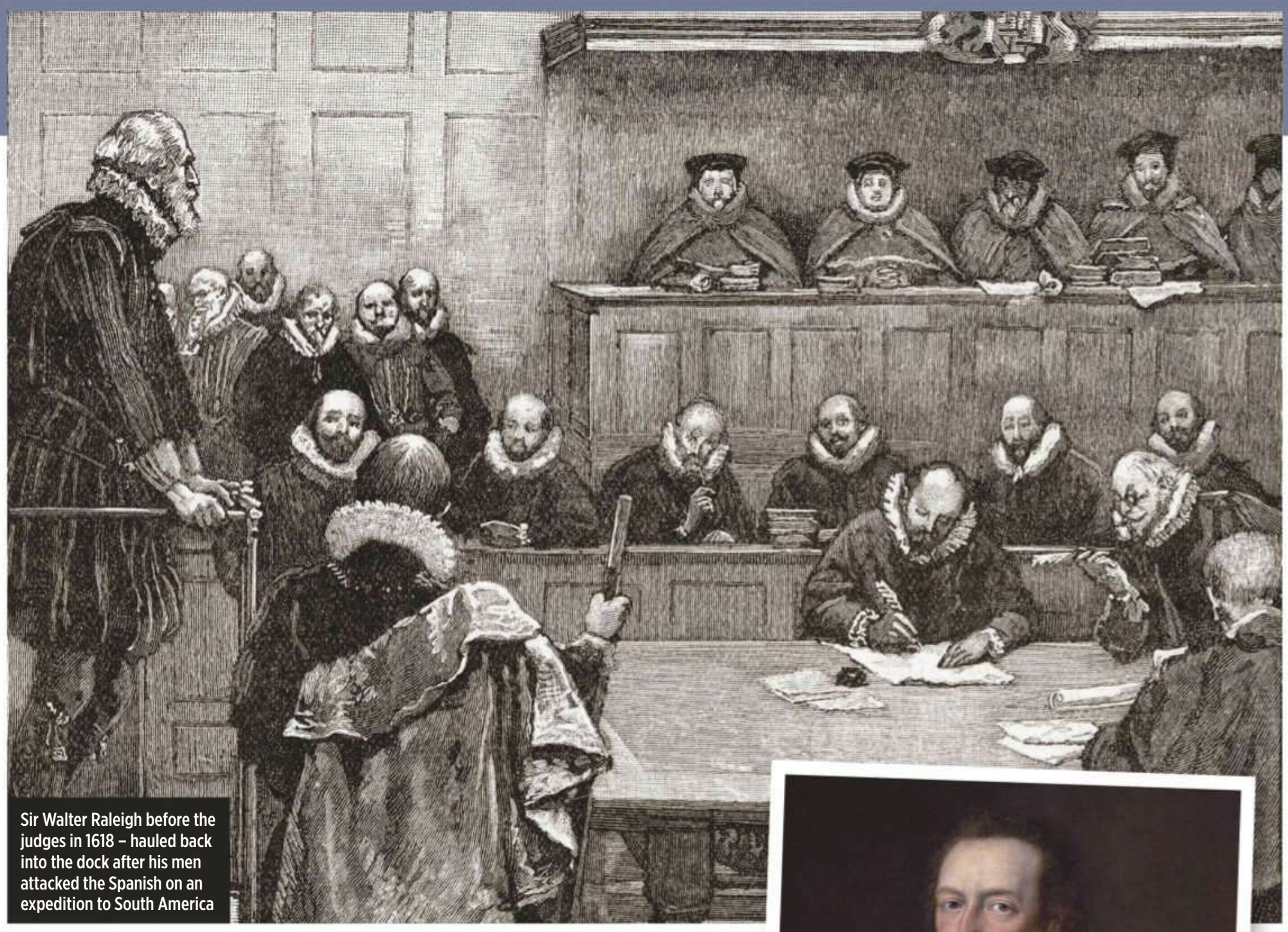
> "Elizabeth I did not like to share her favourites, but Raleigh chose to stray"

Raleigh, too, earned his freedom within a few months, but although he was no longer in the Tower, he was forbidden from entering Elizabeth's court for five years. He was distraught: he penned poetry to the queen that detailed his sadness at having thrown away her favour, and even championed an expedition to Guiana, in what is now Venezuela, to look for the mythical land of El Dorado – all in an attempt to win back her affections.

His efforts were in vain, though, and Raleigh never regained the status that he had once enjoyed in Elizabeth's court. And, to complicate matters further, Elizabeth passed away in 1603, meaning a new monarch sat on the throne: King James VI of Scotland and I of England.

If relations had grown strained between Elizabeth and Raleigh, they were positively icy with the newly anointed monarch. Raleigh had not attempted to curry favour with James before Elizabeth's death – and one of the king's most trusted advisors, Lord Henry Howard, considered Raleigh as something of an enemy. .

When James headed south from Scotland to sit on England's throne (he had been king of Scotland since 1567), Raleigh saw the status that he'd



Sir Walter Raleigh before the judges in 1618 – hauled back into the dock after his men attacked the Spanish on an expedition to South America

Henry Brooke, 11th Baron Cobham, at one point accused Raleigh of being the driving force behind the Main Plot against James VI and I

worked so hard to attain slip through his fingertips. He was stripped of his captaincy of the royal guard; he lost his monopolies (lucrative privileges granted by the Crown to control the sale of particular goods), and he was forced to leave Durham House, his London residence for the past two decades, with a paltry two weeks' notice. This change of circumstance went far beyond a mere loss of money and status: it was a disgrace.

So, when whispers that Raleigh was embroiled in a plot to bring down the new king – dubbed the 'Main Plot' – reached James's ears, he wasted no time in throwing Raleigh in the Tower. This plot would have seen James's first cousin, Arbella Stuart, ascend to England's throne in James' place, with the royal changeover lubricated by a hefty loan of 600,000 crowns from Spain. Apparently, Henry Brooke, the 11th Baron Cobham and one of Raleigh's firm friends, would have brokered this loan through Count Aremberg, an ambassador to England from the Spanish Netherlands.

Although Raleigh staunchly denied being involved in the plot, once ensconced in the Tower, he penned a letter to the Privy Council that contained some "newly-remembered" suspicions about Cobham and Aremberg. However, Raleigh had seemingly forgotten Cobham's explosive temper. When the inquisitors made Cobham aware of Raleigh's desperate note, Cobham is said to have turned on his friend, crying: "Oh traitor! Oh villain!" before naming Raleigh as the driving force behind the plot. Even though Cobham retracted these claims a few days later, after his temper had simmered down, there was nothing to be done: his statement was all the inquisitors had needed.

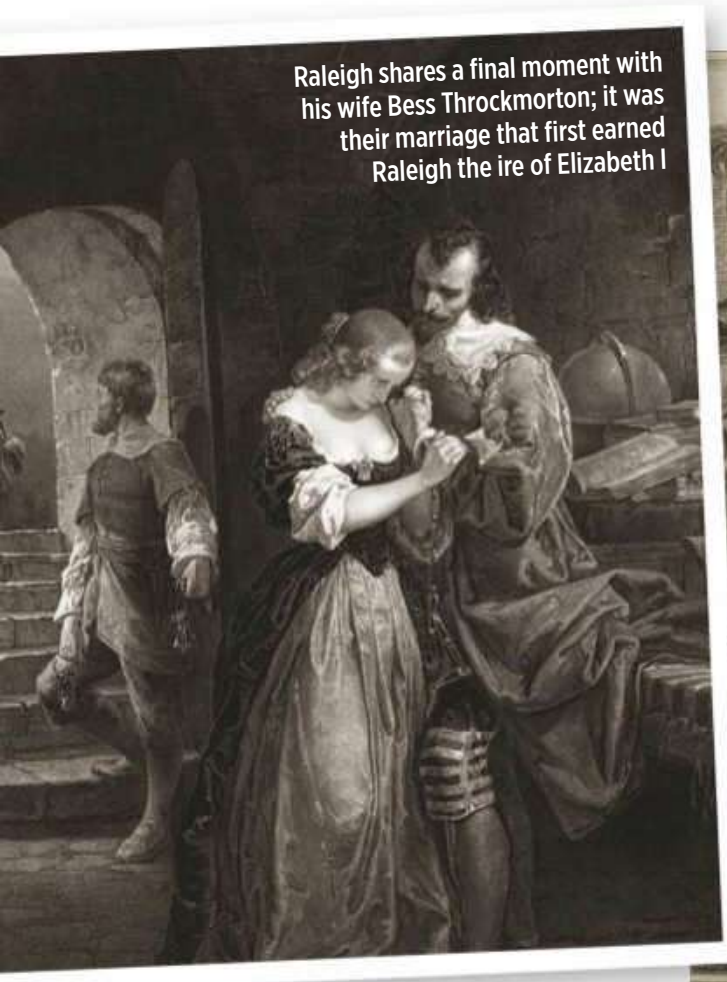
DESPERATE MEASURES

Raleigh, aware of his predicament and driven to despair, tried to take his own life on 27 July by taking a knife to his chest. But this attempt was unsuccessful; the still-living prisoner was to be taken out of plague-infested London to Winchester Castle, where he would argue for his life in the castle's Great Hall.

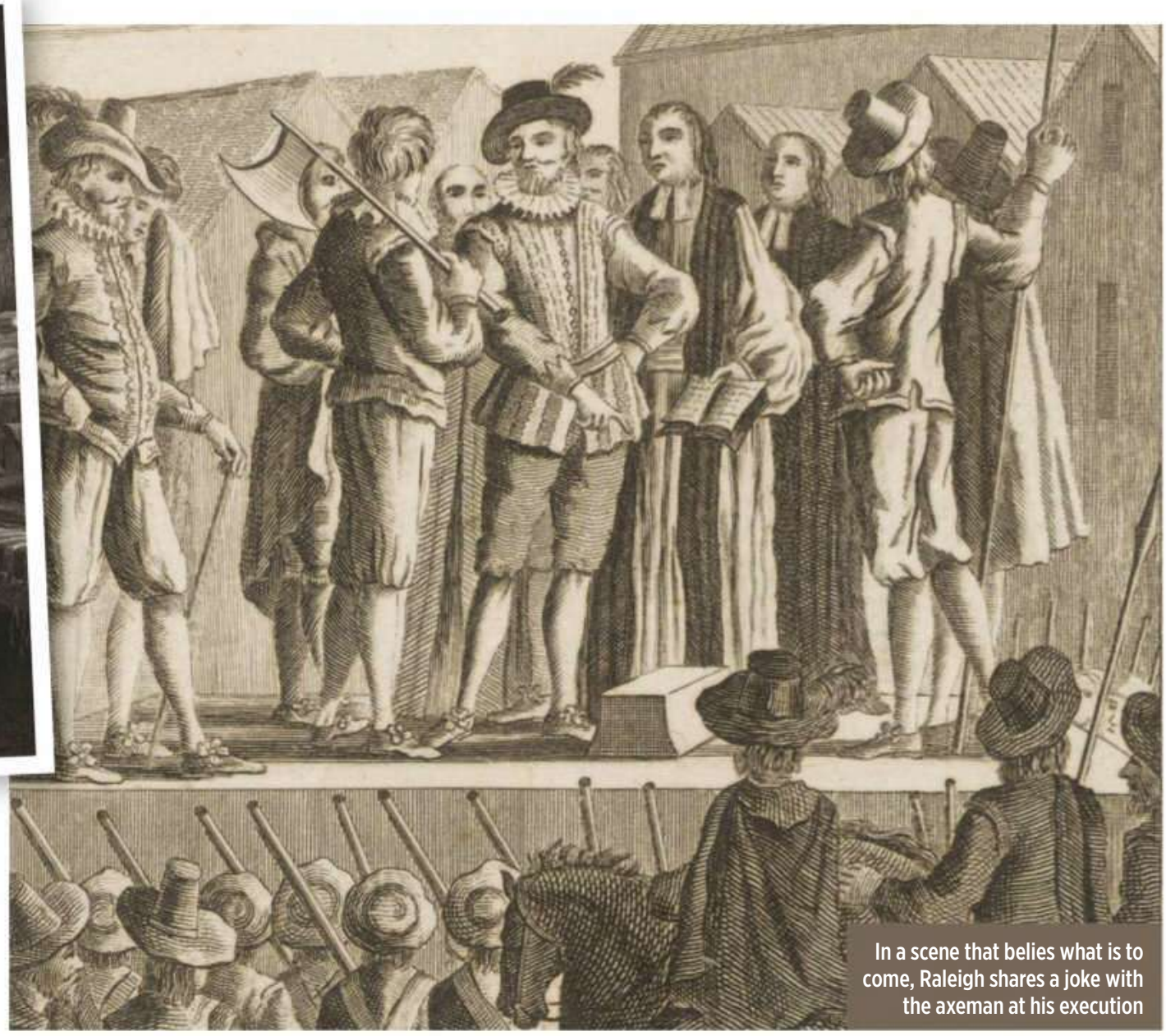
During the journey from London to Winchester, Raleigh's coach was besieged by people who were full of hatred for him. Raleigh was vilified by the public, and they slung handfuls of mud, stones and even tobacco pipes at his coach's windows. However, he made it to Winchester unharmed, ready to argue for his life.

On 17 November 1603, the trial began. As custom dictated, Raleigh was forced to defend himself alone and was denied the opportunity to see the prosecution's evidence before they put their own case forward. As he was being tried for treason, guilt was all but assumed; the death sentence would most likely be the grim outcome.

Although the chance of avoiding the executioner's blade was slim, Raleigh ▶



Raleigh shares a final moment with his wife Bess Throckmorton; it was their marriage that first earned Raleigh the ire of Elizabeth I



In a scene that belies what is to come, Raleigh shares a joke with the axeman at his execution

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X1

defended himself with the passion and gusto one would expect from a man of his extraordinary personality. According to the courtier Dudley Carlton, Raleigh "answered with that temper, wit, learning, courage, and judgement". However, another courtier, Sir Thomas Overbury, was most struck by his composure, noting that Raleigh waited for the trial to start with "very steadfast and cheerful countenance". This was in stark contrast to the prosecutor, attorney general Sir Edward Coke, whose "disposition [was] to triumph upon poor delinquents, and men in misery".

However, Raleigh turned Coke's aggressive style of questioning to his advantage, saying: "You may call me a traitor at your pleasure ... but I take comfort in it. It is all that you can do, for I do not hear you charge me with any treason." This was a key part of his strategy, as he spent the trial attempting to undermine Cobham's statement – which Cobham himself, of course, had admitted was a lie.

Unfortunately, one crucial strand of Cobham's ravings still had grounding in Coke's eyes – and in the eyes of the jury. Although Raleigh hadn't orchestrated the plot himself, Cobham had discussed the plot with him, and Raleigh's failure to report this to the government made him a co-conspirator. Despite all the legal tricks and twists that Raleigh threw out – including a note from Cobham exonerating Raleigh, which Raleigh had secretly procured while both men were in the Tower the jury was resolute: he was guilty of treason, and his punishment would be a traitor's death.

> "James, no doubt wary of Raleigh's burgeoning popularity, decided that the execution must wait"

DEAD MAN WALKING

But the opinion of the public turned out to be very different. Through his dramatic trial, Raleigh had managed to transform himself, in the eyes of the people at least, from one of the country's most hated men to a wrongly accused victim who enjoyed a groundswell of sympathy and support. Dudley Carlton stated: "So well he shifted all advantages that were taken against him, that ... in the opinion of all men he had been acquitted." Some people even shed tears at the verdict including the Earl of Mar, one of James's staunchest Scottish supporters.

The king, no doubt wary of Raleigh's burgeoning popularity and eager to not shake his new authority, decided that the execution must wait. However, the guilty verdict would not be rescinded. So Raleigh was sentenced to imprisonment in the Tower, privy to the strangest of half-lives – physically alive, but legally having the status of a dead man.

His prolonged stay in the Tower was punctuated, though, by an expedition to South America in search of gold in 1617. Ironically, this window of freedom proved the final nail in Raleigh's coffin. During this expedition, Raleigh's men laid waste to the Spanish town of San Tomás, even though James had specifically commanded them not to engage in hostilities with the Spanish. The Spanish demanded blood; James was only too happy to oblige.

Raleigh's death sentence from 1603 was reinstated, and the former royal favourite – originally sentenced to die for conspiring with Spain, then ordered to die a second time for working against them – found himself in a situation that

even he couldn't extract himself from.

On the morning of 29 October 1618, Sir Walter Raleigh sat down to a hearty breakfast, complete with a cup of wine, and smoked an enormous pipe. Dressing in his most lavish garments and dripping with jewellery, he set out from his room in the Tower of London at 8 o'clock – ready to finally face his death.

A FINAL FAREWELL

As Raleigh ascended the scaffold erected at Old Palace Yard in Westminster, he was surrounded by a large crowd. With his head held high, he then addressed those who had come to watch him die. "If I appear to tremble, I beg that you don't put it down to cowardice on my part, but rather to a strong and violent fever that is hindering me in what I intend to say," he began. Raleigh's long imprisonment in the Tower had taken a toll on his health, and the building's damp conditions had aggravated his rheumatism, leaving him with painful joints.

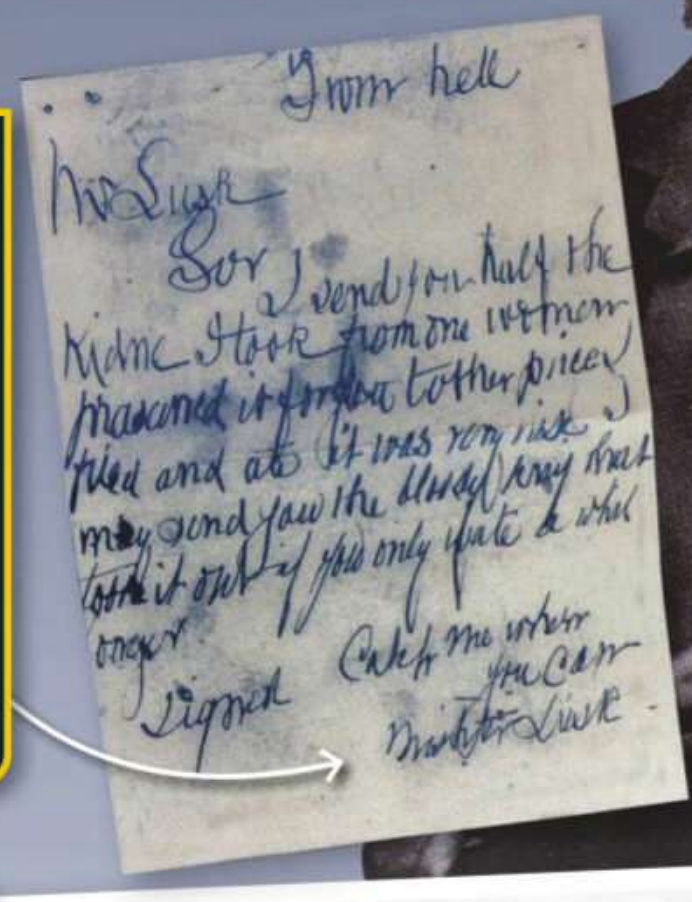
He then waited for the assortment of gentlemen, who had been watching his fate from their window vantage point, to hurry down to hear his speech more clearly. As the group of finely dressed men assembled outside, he continued, saying: "Thank God that I came out of the darkness of my imprisonment in the Tower to die in the light".

Raleigh reaffirmed his innocence a final time, stating: "Oh Lord I call upon your all seeing majesty to witness that I am most clear and innocent in this matter." He concluded his powerful last words by declaring: "I confess myself to be a most wicked, sinful and wretched man; a poor worm of the earth; one who has delighted and trod in all ways of vanity. For my whole life has been bred up to that, having been a courtier, a captain and soldier professions in which vices have their best nourishment... I beg your Christian and charitable prayers to God for me, and this is all I have to say."

With that, he said his goodbyes to the lords many of whom being his former friends by bowing to them and taking them in his arms, before praying for a final time. Raleigh didn't accept the blindfold that was offered to him, instead positioning his head on the block and sharing a joke with the executioner before the axe swung and ended his life. Raleigh's meteoric rise to Queen Elizabeth I's favourite and man about court was made all the more impressive and poignant by his terrible fall from grace.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

A LOOK BACK AT THREE OTHER EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN OCTOBER THROUGHOUT HISTORY


From hell
Mr Lusk
Sor I send you half the
Kidne I took from one woman
preserved it for you tother piece
fried and ate it was very nice
may send you the bloody knife that
took it out if you only wate a while
Signed Catch me when you can
Mishter Lusk

16 October 1888

GRISLY GIFT

The chairman of Whitechapel's Vigilance Committee, George Lusk (*far right*), receives an alcohol-preserved lump and accompanying letter. The letter purports to be from notorious serial killer Jack the Ripper, with the strange lump being half a human kidney, and of the other half Jack wrote: "I fried and ate it was very nise [sic]."

28 October 1922

POWER WALKING

The March on Rome saw Mussolini encourage thousands of 'Blackshirts' to walk to Italy's capital in a bid to gain power. It was ultimately successful: the next day the country's king, Victor Emmanuel III, invited Mussolini to form a government.

23 October 42 BC

VIOLENT END

One of Julius Caesar's assassins, Marcus Junius Brutus, ends his life by falling on his own sword, following his army's disastrous performance at the second Battle of Philippi. His opponent, Mark Anthony, commanded that Brutus's body be treated with great respect, and his ashes were sent back to his mother in Rome.

Wellington

THE ROAD TO THE LION'S MOUND 1769-1815

DANIEL RES

'The Duke of Wellington is not just a figure belonging to British history but also one belonging to that of the whole of Europe. In this imaginative work, Czech historian, Daniel Res, both reminds us of this fact and gives us a wealth of insight into the rich vein of material on the Napoleonic Wars to be found in the archives of mittel Europa'.

CHARLES ESDAILE, author of *Napoleon, France and Waterloo: The Eagle Rejected*, and *Napoleon's Wars: An International History, 1803–1815*

Wellington – The Road to the Lion's Mound 1769-1815 is the first volume of the story of the 1st Duke of Wellington, the man who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo and became a celebrated hero not only in Britain and Europe, but throughout the world.

Daniel Res tells the gripping tale of Wellington's exploits, giving the book an almost novel-like readability. In it we discover the story of Wellington's youth in Ireland, his shaky beginnings in politics and the army, his first military success in India and his crucial engagements with Napoleonic France on the Iberian Peninsula as he fights his way from there to the south of France in 1814 – all events which culminate in the Battle of Waterloo the following year. Res presents Wellington not only as an ingenious commander, but also as a sensitive man, one often shaken by the realities and horrors of war.

Wellington is revealed to be an excellent horseman, a passionate reader, a gentleman, an impeccable organizer, perfectionist and workaholic, as well as being a Conservative politician with a notably British sense of humour.

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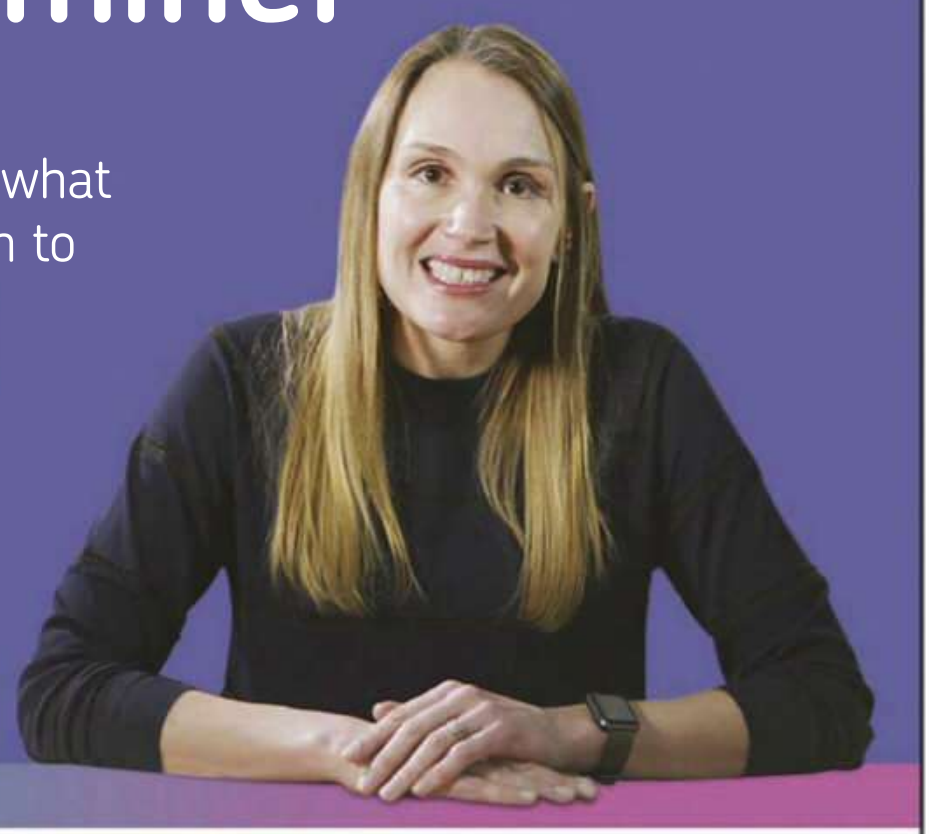

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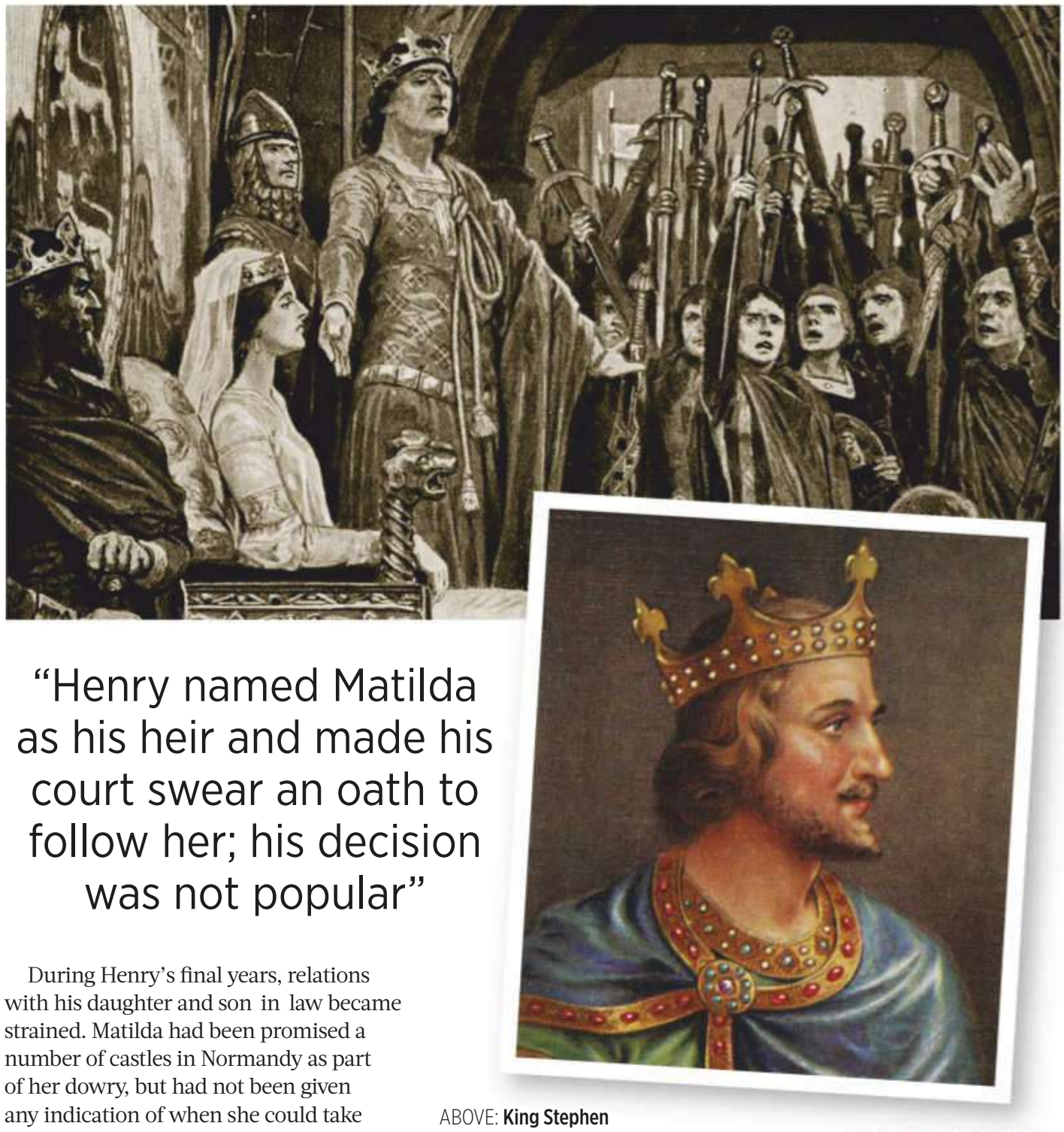
The Anarchy

Words: Emma Slattery Williams



WHAT WAS THE ANARCHY?

The Anarchy was a period of civil war in England between 1135 and 1153, following the death of Henry I. The anonymous 12th-century history *Gesta Stephani* (*The Deeds of Stephen*) paints a dismal picture of the state of the country at this time: "England, formerly the seat of justice, the habitation of peace, the height of piety, the mirror of religion, became thereafter a home of perversity, a haunt of strife, a training-ground of disorder, and a teacher of every kind of rebellion." The Anarchy would be looked back on for centuries to come as one of the darkest periods in England's history.

WHAT HAD LED UP TO THE SUCCESSION CRISIS?

In 1120, Henry I's only legitimate son and heir, William Adelin, was killed when his ship sank in the English Channel. Fearing for the succession, Henry married Adeliza of Louvain (a woman 35 years his junior) in 1121 in the hope of fathering another male heir – though he had other sons, none were legitimate. Until this crisis, Henry's rule had been viewed as strong with a centralised government; the thought of chaos at his death was troubling to England's nobility.

Though his second marriage remained childless, a new option presented itself in 1125, when Henry's only other legitimate child Matilda – Empress Matilda that is, as she had married Holy Roman Emperor Henry V – was widowed. She returned to Normandy (an English possession since the Norman Conquest) and, in 1128, was married to Geoffrey of Anjou, heir to the French lands of Anjou, Touraine and Maine, forming an alliance that secured Normandy's southern borders.

Henry named Matilda his heir and made his court swear an oath to follow her, but his decision was not popular, and agreement was given reluctantly. Matilda had spent little time in England and her husband was not popular with the English nobles – he was technically at war with Henry when the king died. What's more, England had never had a reigning queen before, and people were suspicious of a woman on the throne.

> "Henry named Matilda as his heir and made his court swear an oath to follow her; his decision was not popular"

During Henry's final years, relations with his daughter and son in law became strained. Matilda had been promised a number of castles in Normandy as part of her dowry, but had not been given any indication of when she could take possession of them. In 1135, Matilda and Geoffrey demanded these castles and insisted that the Norman nobility swear allegiance to the couple. Henry refused, perhaps out of fear that Geoffrey would try and seize power in Normandy for himself. And when a rebellion broke out in Normandy, Matilda and Geoffrey sided with the rebels against Henry.

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN HENRY I DIED?

When Henry I died on 1 December 1135, some nobles declared that the king had released them from their oath to Matilda. The Norman barons believed that Theobald of Blois, Henry's nephew via his sister Adela, would be the ideal choice for England's king. Theobald's younger brother Stephen, however, had other ideas. He was a prominent, well-liked member of Henry's court, and had the support of the Church via their younger brother – another Henry, the Bishop of Winchester. Wasting no time, Stephen crossed the Channel to England from Boulogne, seizing the crown on 22 December.

ABOVE: **King Stephen proved to be a rather ineffectual monarch whose reign was overshadowed by the chaos of The Anarchy**

TOP: **Henry I proclaims that Matilda is his heir during the Christmas revels of 1126**

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IN A NUTSHELL

YOUR BRIEF EXPLAINER TO HISTORY'S HOT TOPICS

ABOVE: **A 19th-century illustration shows Matilda being permitted to leave Arundel Castle**

RIGHT: **The people of London rise up against Matilda, who failed to win the hearts of her subjects**

HOW DID MATILDA REACT?

Matilda refused to renounce the crown. Her claim was upheld by her half brother Robert of Gloucester (one of Henry I's illegitimate sons), as well as her uncle King David I of Scotland. Robert's declaration of support for Matilda caused a rebellion to rise up across the southwest of England as well as Kent, while Geoffrey of Anjou invaded Normandy and David I attacked northern England.

In 1139, Matilda arrived in England to claim her throne. She stayed at Arundel Castle with her stepmother while Robert attempted to rally support for her across the country. Stephen besieged the castle, effectively trapping Matilda inside. As she had not yet declared herself as a threat to him, he allowed her safe passage to meet up with Robert in Bristol. There, she established a base in the southwest. Over the next few years there were minor scuffles and an attempt at peace as Stephen tried to reclaim the region.

WHY WAS THIS CONFLICT CALLED 'THE ANARCHY'

As Stephen's rule progressed, he began to alienate many nobles who had been key advisors to Henry I by promoting his own friends.

Stephen had also made an enemy of the clergy when he arrested Roger, Bishop of Salisbury, and his position as king became unstable. Members of the clergy saw this as an attack on the church itself and many now threw their support behind Matilda's claim. Many barons and clergy became a law unto themselves. Authority broke down, Stephen's government lost control hence the term 'anarchy' and unlicensed castles began to appear. A number of nobles wanted to regain what they saw as hereditary rights to lands that had changed hands during Henry I's reign, and some changed sides frequently to gain advantage.

> "Wasting no time, Stephen crossed the Channel to England from Boulogne, seizing the crown"

DID MATILDA COME CLOSE TO CLAIMING THE CROWN?

In 1141, Stephen besieged Lincoln Castle, where he was set upon by forces led by Robert of Gloucester and Ranulf of Chester. Defeated in the ensuing battle, Stephen was taken to Bristol and held prisoner for nearly nine months. Even though he was the anointed king, his legs were chained, and his poor treatment served to lessen Matilda's popularity.

With Stephen behind bars, Matilda took her chance and made it as far as Westminster, with preparations underway for her coronation. However, she quickly lost support from the people of London for another reason. In the lead up to a coronation, the soon-to-be monarch would traditionally listen to petitions about tax concessions and requests for favours, but Matilda granted no favours and banished all petitioners from her presence. The people now saw that Matilda as queen was no better a solution for the country and they rang the bells of the city. Matilda was forced to flee to Oxford when an angry mob and the London militia advanced on Westminster.

WHAT HAPPENED TO STEPHEN?

In September 1141, Robert was captured at Winchester by Stephen's queen, also called Matilda, who led loyal nobles and Flemish mercenaries in Stephen's name. Robert was exchanged for Stephen, weakening the former empress further. Stephen then proceeded to attack Oxford and besieged its castle, where Matilda was based, forcing her to flee to Abingdon Abbey and then Wallingford Castle.

The war carried on with skirmishes and victories on both sides, but neither Stephen nor Matilda's forces were able to deliver a decisive blow. In 1147, Robert of

GETTY IMAGES X4

Gloucester died, and with him the main thrust of Matilda's military campaign. She left for Normandy the following year and passed her claim to the throne to her son, Henry Plantagenet.

HOW DID THE CIVIL WAR END?

Henry enjoyed military success in Normandy and set his sights on England – in 1153, he undertook an effective campaign, managing to take control of much of the country with little fighting.

The first vestiges of a resolution appeared at Wallingford in July 1153: Stephen and Henry's forces camped on either side of the Thames, but the barons on both sides refused to fight. Many had already made peace amongst themselves and forced Henry and Stephen to do the same – though there were skirmishes while the peace was ironed out.

Stephen's son Eustace was less than happy with the idea of a truce, but his sudden death in August simplified matters as far as claimants to the throne were concerned, leading to a more formal agreement – the Treaty of Winchester, in which Stephen would continue to rule, with Henry as his successor. When Stephen died in 1154, Henry Plantagenet became Henry II – the first of the dynasty that ruled England until 1485.

Matilda flees Oxford after Stephen besieges the city and castle

WHAT PART DID SCOTLAND PLAY?

King David of Scotland invaded England on Stephen's ascension to the throne as he recognised his niece, Matilda, as the rightful monarch. The only way Stephen could diffuse the situation was to cede Carlisle and give David's son, Henry, the title and lands of the Earldom of Huntingdon.

David would invade northern England numerous times over the next few years to help Matilda's efforts and to increase his own territories. The 1138 Battle of the Standard was an English victory, but David received much of the territorial concessions he had wanted including the Earldom of Northumberland as well as keeping hold of Carlisle and Cumberland. David remained loyal to Matilda throughout Stephen's reign but did not take his army south in support.

WHAT WERE THE LASTING EFFECTS ON ENGLAND?

Though the economy was in tatters due to long periods of fighting, Henry II united a kingdom that had been torn apart, dismissing the Scottish and Welsh invaders who had taken advantage of the chaos. He also listened to the advice of his barons, which Stephen had often neglected to do.

As royal authority had weakened during Stephen's reign, the clergy had made a move to extend the Church's jurisdiction. Henry II attempted to reverse this with the Constitution of Clarendon – 16 articles which would reduce ecclesiastical privilege and lessen the power of the church courts. Quarrels about this would eventually lead to the infamous falling-out between Henry II and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Becket, and the latter's murder.

LISTEN

BBC RADIO 4 Melvyn Bragg discusses The Anarchy on an episode of *In Our Time* on BBC Radio 4.
bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01nl963

A 19th-century depiction of Stephen and Henry agreeing a truce across the Thames

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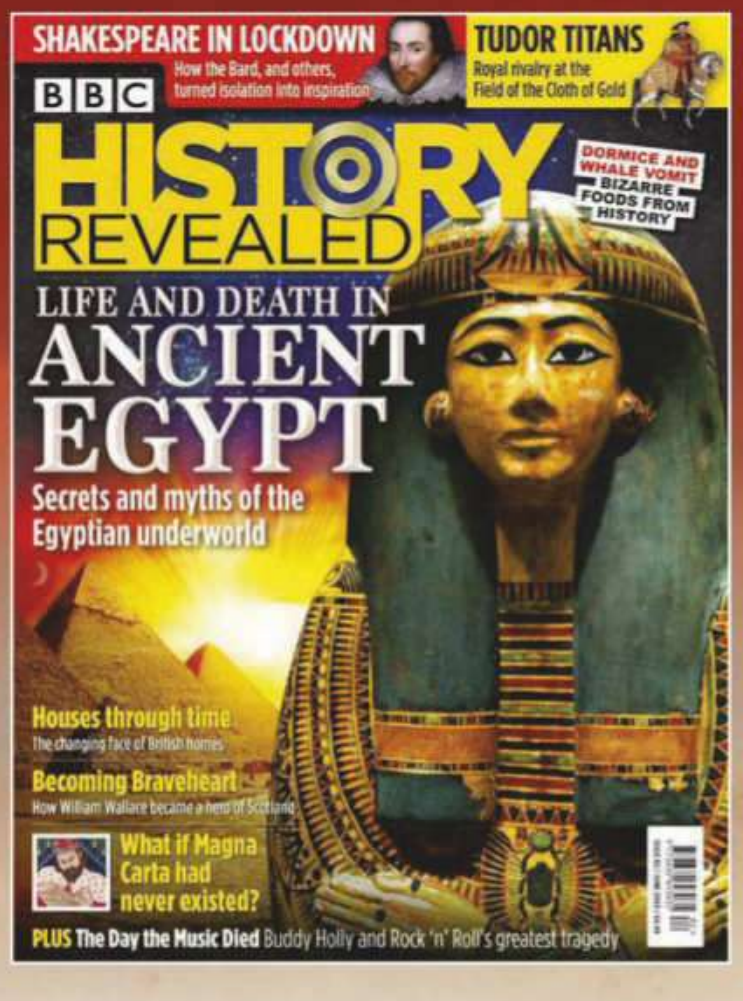
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YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE VICTORIANS

The Victorian era is one of powerful associations: one in which scientific advances, technological marvels and startling social change nestled side-by-side with squalor, prudishness, the horror of the workhouse and the pervasive myth that Victorians didn't smile. It was a period that continued to see British influence and ideas percolate across the world, carried by the trade winds and rifles of an empire on which the sun did not set – and at the head of it all was a woman who, when she was born, might reasonably never have expected to reign.

Coming to the throne in 1837, Queen Victoria would rule for longer than any monarch before her – and even today is only surpassed by Elizabeth II. In this essential guide we explore both her life and reign, as well as the people over whom she ruled.

Was Victoria popular as a monarch in her own time, for instance? How much do we owe Charles Dickens for creating Christmas? What was life like in the workhouse? How did the Victorians treat criminals? We begin over the page with a Q&A with historian and expert Professor Sarah Richardson....

28 Everything you wanted to know about the Victorians
Professor Sarah Richardson gives us a snapshot of life during Queen Victoria's almost 64 years on the throne

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The fall of the East India Company and the beginnings of the British Raj

38 For queen and country
There's not a single decade in Victoria's reign without a war: explore them here

40 Victoria: queen, wife, mother
Her childhood, her relationship with Albert, her years of mourning, and why she became known as the 'grandmother of Europe'

44 Life as an 'ordinary' Victorian
Away from the glitz of innovation and industry, life could be gruelling and short

46 Innovations of the Victorian era
Seven epic feats of imagination... plus one epic fail

48 Victorian vittles
Not all Victorian fare would appeal to modern palettes – including one her majesty's alleged favourites

49 The Victorian Christmas
They may not have invented Christmas, but the Victorians certainly shaped some of today's unassailable traditions

52 Titans of their time
Who are the most famous figures of the era?

52 Crime and punishment
The first modern police force, the Bloody Code, and why transportation to Australia was actually a life sentence

SARAH RICHARDSON is professor of history at the University of Warwick. She has written widely on the Victorian period, specialising in women and political culture in late 18th and early 19th-century Britain.

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE VICTORIANS

Professor Sarah Richardson answers key questions about one of the biggest periods in British history

Q: When did the Victorian era begin and end, and when did it first start being referred to as such?

A: It starts officially in 1837, with the accession of Queen Victoria and ends in 1901 when she dies. The first mention of the term 'Victorian' was in a literary magazine in 1839, two years after her accession. That's the strict meaning of 'Victorian' at least – pertaining to the reign of Queen Victoria. But it's used more figuratively to talk about the whole of the 19th century or to talk about attitudes and behaviours of the period.

Woken from her sleep, the young Victoria receives a kiss on the hand having been told of her accession following the death of William IV

Q: Why do you think we're so fascinated by the Victorians?

A: It's an incredibly exciting era of history; a transformational period in terms of huge rises in population, the transfer of people from the countryside to the city, and the establishment of the sort of great cities that we know and love, like Birmingham or Manchester. And Victoria lives a long time, which perhaps seems an obvious thing to say, but when you have monarchs that have very, very long reigns, they give a sort of stability and shape to a period.

We tend to think of the Elizabethan era, for example, as one of the golden ages of English history. And the Victorian period is an equivalent in a way – most of the 19th century is presided over by one person. And that gives it a sort of character and attraction.

It's a hugely important age in terms of culture and industry as well: there are countless new technological innovations, such as the railways. And the novel gets established in this period, so we have incredible writers like Charles Dickens, William Thackeray and George Eliot recording and analysing social and economic conditions in Britain at the time as well. So, the Victorians' popularity is a perfect storm of all these elements really, which makes it an incredibly exciting period.

The 19th century is also one for which we have a lot of historical information. One of the major sources for historians is the census, which begins in 1801, and from 1841 onwards, you can find out quite detailed information on everybody – from the queen downwards. You can find out the size of a household; where they were born; what jobs they did; who else lived in the house, and so on. Most early modern historians would give ▶

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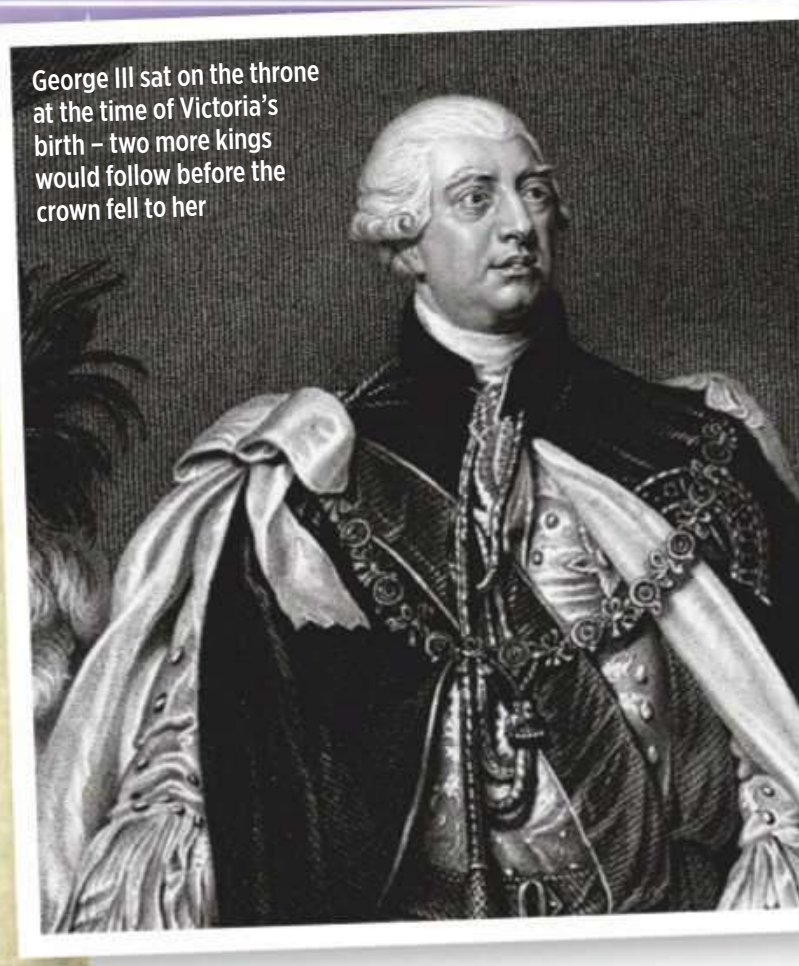
Victoria wed Albert in 1840; they would be married until his death, 21 years later



George III sat on the throne at the time of Victoria's birth – two more kings would follow before the crown fell to her

their eye teeth to have a source like that, where you can actually drill down and find out about the lives of ordinary people, as well as those of the great and the good.

"When Victoria was born in 1819 she wasn't expected to become queen – she was the daughter of the fourth son of George III"

Q: How popular was Victoria as a monarch?

A: Initially, there was quite a lot of anxiety. Her succession was not a given, and certainly when she was born in 1819 she wasn't expected to become queen. Victoria was the daughter of the fourth son of George III, so there were three sons above her father who could have had legitimate children, but didn't. So she wasn't brought up to be a monarch.

There was some anxiety at her accession because she was very young – just 18 – she was a woman, and she wasn't necessarily all that well-known to the British public. She married Albert quite early in her reign, but there were always concerns that she was being influenced by politicians at the time. This was always a fear surrounding a female monarch – who were the men who might be around and influencing her? Once she married Albert, in 1840, they did become a popular royal couple, and they idealised the idea of marriage and the family. But Victoria's public image was limited somewhat by the fact that, for much of her early reign, she was pregnant and so out of the public eye – between 1840 and 1857 she had nine children.

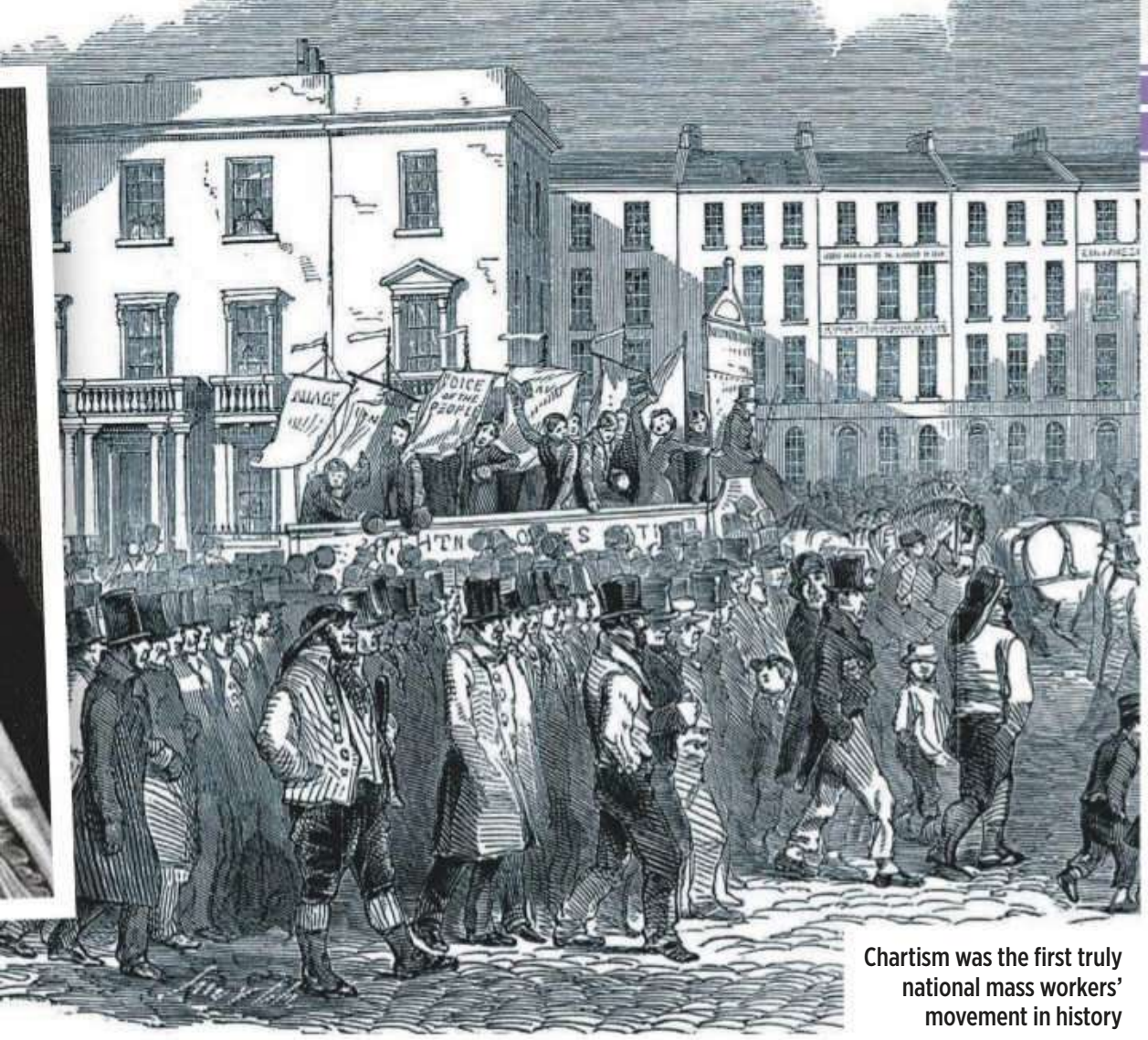
When Albert died, in 1861, Victoria's popularity fell as she withdrew completely from public life, to the extent that there was even a rise of a Republican movement. But towards the end of her reign, as she re-emerged into public life once more, her popularity rose, too. And by the time she dies in 1901, Victoria was very well thought of by the general public and was regarded as a monarch who had presided over the rise of democracy, the growth of the Empire, British prosperity and so on.

Q: How and why did Britain avoid the sort of revolutionary change seen elsewhere in Europe in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries?

A: It certainly wasn't a given in the 19th century that Britain would not see revolution. In the 1840s, support for the Chartists – a movement that campaigned for political rights and influence for the working classes – was at its highest. In 1848, a huge Chartist meeting was held on Kennington Common, with upwards of 20,000 people present. Although the meeting was peaceful, 1848 was a year which saw a wave of revolutions in Europe, in places such as Sicily, France, Germany, Italy, and the Austrian Empire, and there was a lot of anxiety that Britain would see the same. Victoria and Albert were quickly taken from London to Osborne on the Isle of Wight, but interestingly, Albert actually had a lot of sympathy for the working classes and their politics. In hindsight, we know that 1848 was really the last hurrah for the Chartist movement and there wasn't a revolution in Britain. But at the time it wasn't certain.

There are several reasons why revolution was less likely in Britain, one of which being the fact that there was more democracy in Britain than there was elsewhere in Europe. We didn't have the sort of absolute monarchy like they did in France, for example, or in Austria and Hungary – the British monarchy had already ceded some of its powers in 1688, when Parliament had been established

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2



Chartism was the first truly national mass workers' movement in history

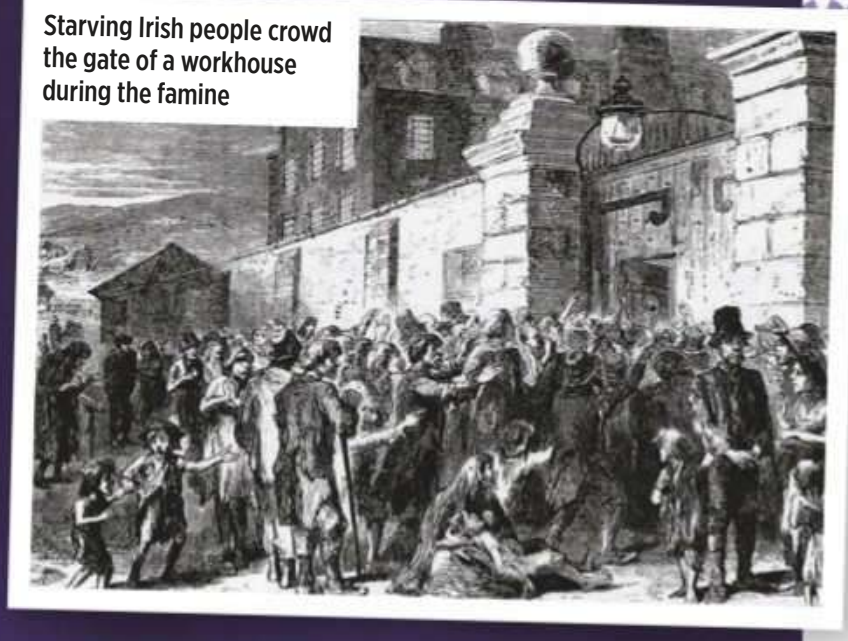
as the ruling power of England (later the United Kingdom) and the monarchy had become constitutional rather than absolute. What's more, in 1832, a small measure of enfranchisement had been granted, albeit mainly to the middle classes. Cities like Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield had all been enfranchised and had MPs for the first time, meaning that their voices could be heard in parliament. So, I think there were big differences between Britain and the rest of Europe during this period, which meant the conditions for revolution were less likely.

Q: How did Victorian influence affect life across the British Empire?

A: It differed from place to place. Colonies were often ruled by governors who were there to represent the British state and the queen on the ground. Their position, attitudes and ideologies could dramatically influence the relationships between colonised populations and the British. It wasn't always easy because a lot of these territories were vast and difficult to manage, particularly from London, so the British army, for example, was very important in maintaining law and order, or quelling rebellion in places such as India.

Things weren't the same across the whole Empire, though, and in some cases, British colonies were actually ahead of Britain in terms of democracy and so on. Women were enfranchised in New Zealand and Australia, for example, well before women in Britain, and proportional representation (where seats in parliament are allocated in proportion to votes cast) was introduced in Adelaide, South Australia in the 1830s. So, in many cases, states within the Empire were able to establish their own forms of government.

The Kate Sheppard National Suffragists Memorial, commemorating womens' suffrage, in New Zealand – the first nation in the world in which all adult women gained the right to vote in elections



Starving Irish people crowd the gate of a workhouse during the famine

THE IRISH POTATO FAMINE

The British response to an agricultural disaster left a lot to be desired

The Potato Famine of 1845-49 was a watershed moment in Britain's long history with Ireland, and the story of how a million deaths from mostly preventable disease and hunger happened on the doorstep of the world's wealthiest country still shocks.

Almost all of the exportable food produced in Ireland during the Victorian period was transported to mainland Britain. Controversial Corn Laws imposed tariffs on imported grain and kept prices of locally produced food high so, increasingly, the Irish became almost wholly dependent on potatoes, which were cheap, easy to grow and calorie dense but, as it turned out, genetically weak and prone to disease. Nevertheless, potatoes accounted for 60 per cent of Ireland's entire food needs, with no affordable alternative in event of failure.

By August 1845, a potato blight had reached Britain and continental Europe from America. Between a third and half the crop was ruined in 1845, and in 1846, up to 75 per cent of the potato harvest was inedible. Conservative Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel initially imported £100,000 of Indian grain to Ireland, established a programme of public works to provide people with a subsistence wage to purchase alternative food supplies, and repealed the Corn Laws. But his successor, Whig PM Lord John Russell, took a more fundamentalist approach, based on the popular ideologies of the era: self-help and *laissez-faire*, which opposed the provision of charity. Though a soup-kitchen system was established, it was abandoned after six months of operation.

The British government's failure to act and its incomprehension of the severity of the situation casts a dark shadow on the Victorian era, and it was widely criticised both in Ireland and elsewhere – political journalist John Mitchel wrote: "The Almighty, indeed, sent the potato blight, but the English created the famine".

Of a pre-famine population of some eight million, over a million Irish people died of hunger and famine-related diseases, with many others forced to flee their homeland. In less than a decade in the mid-19th century, the population of Ireland plummeted from 8.25 million to just over 6.5 million.

VICTORIANS IN NUMBERS

The Victorian era is big – but just how big are we talking?

400,000

Number of people who gathered in London for Victoria's coronation in June 1838

2.5 BILLION

Coins produced by the Royal Mint during Victoria's reign

23,226

Number of days that Victoria ruled (that's 63 years, seven months and two days)

10

Number of British prime ministers during Victoria's reign

350 MILLION

Number of letters being sent every year in the decade following the introduction of the penny post

121.3 MILLION TONS

Output of coal per annum from British mines by 1870

16 MILLION

The population of England, Scotland and Wales in 1837

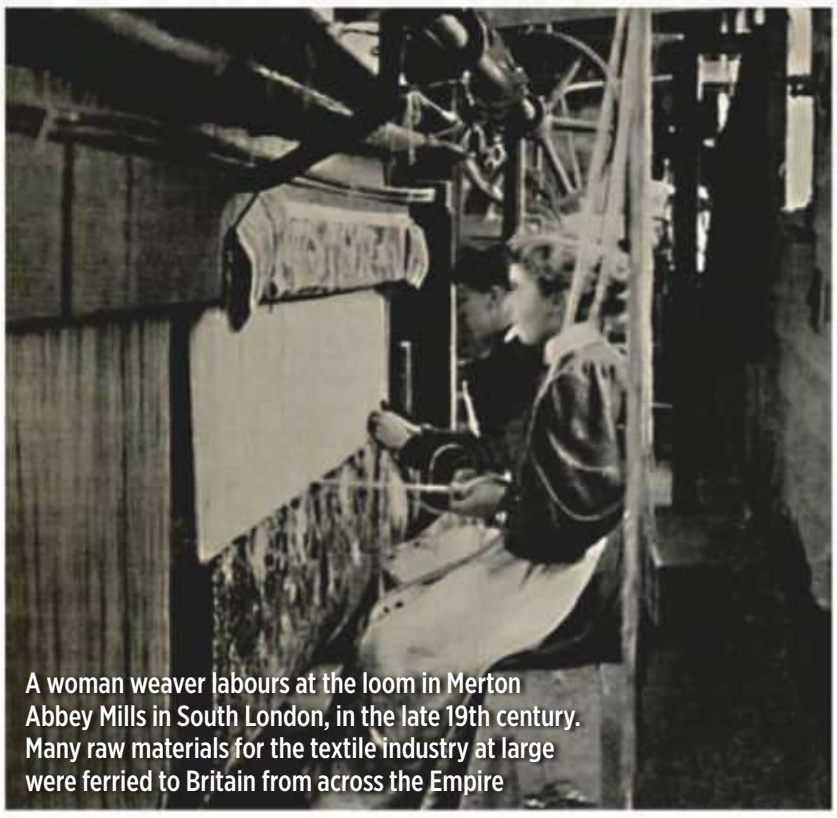
60,000-70,000

Number of deaths from tuberculosis in each decade of Victoria's reign

7,000 MILES

Distance of railway line that had been laid across England by 1850

These men are singing 'MacDermott's Warsong' in 1877, a bellicose ballad boasting of Britain's military prowess that contains the phrase 'by jingo' – and later led to the coining of phrase 'jingoism'



A woman weaver labours at the loom in Merton Abbey Mills in South London, in the late 19th century. Many raw materials for the textile industry at large were ferried to Britain from across the Empire

A Victorian parlour – equivalent to the modern living room – decorated with authentic items

Q: How did the Victorians view the people and places they were colonising?

A: Britain's desire to expand its empire was really seen as a type of 'civilising' mission a mission to 'save' these populations from tribalism and paganism and that sort of thing, a way to export British values of democracy, liberalism and Christianity. And as photography starts taking off, people can actually see some of these exotic places that previously they had only heard about as a result they become more real to people. But it's still a very constructed view of the British heading out to 'save' these populations.

Q: How aware would ordinary people have been of Britain's influence overseas?

A: The main sort of source of information for most people would have been industry Britain's textile districts were dependent on raw materials being brought into Britain from the Empire to fuel the nation's industrial development.

There were also a number of wars and conflicts during the 19th century, such as the South African Wars and the Crimean War (*see p38*), which would have captured the public's imagination and inspired patriotism and even what's known as jingoism a sort of glorying in the British Empire. So yes, I think there was a reasonable sense of what the Empire was providing and particularly its importance to the British economy.

"Britain's desire to expand its empire was really seen as a type of 'civilising' mission – to 'save' these populations"

There was also a sort of professional exodus from Britain in the 19th century, as people left Britain to settle in the Empire, in places like New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and India people who worked in the civil service or fought with the army, or industrialists looking to exploit resources and territories overseas.

Q: The Victorians are often seen as being prudish and disapproving. Is this a fair assessment?

A: When people talk about Victorian values, they're really talking about a middle class view of values hard work, self improvement, that type of thing. And these are the sorts of values we associate with the Victorian era.

I think the idea of Victorians being a bit prudish is accurate to some extent, in that we have conduct and advice manuals from the era which put forward views of acceptable behaviour, but perhaps not as much as we might expect. We also have to understand that scientific knowledge and information about things like sexuality and menstruation were much less advanced in the 19th century than they are today. So, there were a lot of myths around certain behaviours.

There has been a lot of research recently on homosexuality in the Victorian period, for example, which indicates that homosexual desire was actually pretty tolerated until the 1880s, when the laws changed and homosexual acts of 'gross indecency' were criminalised, making it easier to prosecute.

Another area of misunderstanding is prostitution, something we assume would have horrified Victorian sensitivities. Obviously, there was great moral outrage against prostitution, but for many working class communities, it seems women sort of drifted in and out of prostitution depending on their circumstances. So, communities would often tolerate women who engaged in sex work, and viewed them as simply trying to survive rather than as 'career' prostitutes. So, like many other elements of the Victorian era, it's a contradictory picture in many ways.

GETTY IMAGES X6

THE VICTORIANS AND THE EMPIRE

Queen Victoria's reign saw Britain dominate the world stage, spreading its power, influence and beliefs across the known world

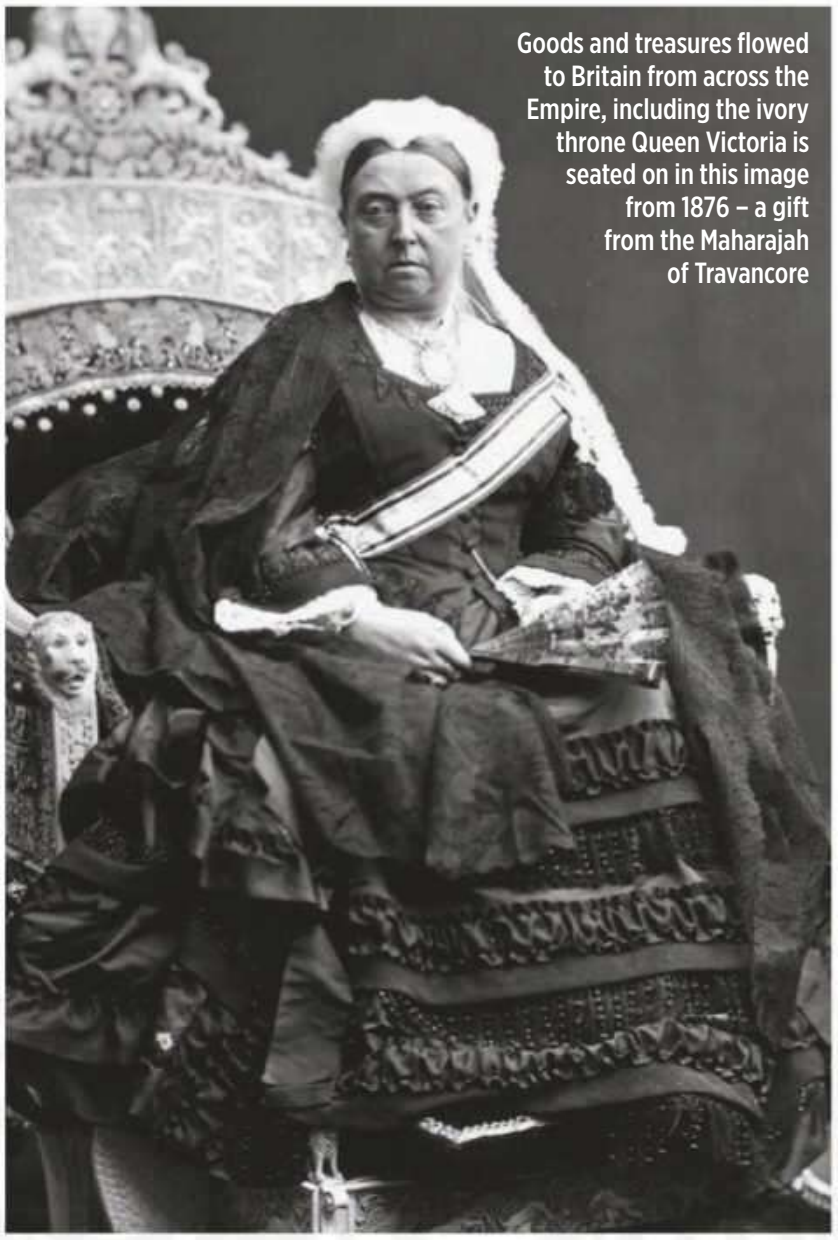
WORDS: NIGE TASSELL

When Victoria ascended the throne in 1837, the British Empire was a loose assortment of colonies mostly accrued for reasons of trade. By the time of her death nearly 64 years later, the Empire had expanded to become a coherent and dominant show of economic and political strength. As head of state, Victoria had presided over nearly a quarter of the world's population.

At the turn of the 20th century, the Union flag was raised right across the map: from the farthest reaches of North America, across the Caribbean, over large swathes of Africa, throughout the Indian subcontinent and as far distant as Australia and New Zealand. The cliché was that Britain's influence, power and control was so far reaching, so all encompassing, that the Sun never set on its empire. And it was true.

"The loss of America in the 18th century, following the American War of Independence, had been an immense blow to Britain's confidence," says Sarah Richardson, professor of history at the University of Warwick, "and at Victoria's accession, the British Empire was in a state of flux. But by the end of the 19th century, Britain's existing empire had expanded beyond recognition, and colonisation had become a moral mission to share and spread British values across the globe."

Powered by the Industrial Revolution, which had put itself at the forefront of global manufacturing, Britain was eager both to develop new markets for its goods and to secure easy access to raw materials from elsewhere in the world. The expansion of Britain's industries, and the hugely positive effect on its economy, was dependent on the expansion of its empire. The result was a complex tangle of trade, politics and governance, with the traffic both of goods and people going in either direction. Britain needed raw materials and cheap labour; in return, it offered its colonies technical advances (such as the railway) and societal improvements, such as medicine and education. The latter, though, often came with the imposition of a certain way of life and occasionally a certain level of brutality.



Goods and treasures flowed to Britain from across the Empire, including the ivory throne Queen Victoria is seated on in this image from 1876 – a gift from the Maharajah of Travancore

GETTY IMAGES X2

Expanding in the manner in which it did during the 19th century, the British Empire was significantly aided by the comparative weakness of other imperial European powers. Having defeated France in the Napoleonic Wars (1803–15), Britain found itself unrivalled when it came to both military and economic power. For the next 100 years, it encountered very little military conflict between the great powers; the century between 1815 and 1914 became known as the *Pax Britannica* – Latin for 'British Peace'.

A TUDOR DREAM REALISED?

The notion of a British Empire was not a 19th century one. It had its origins in the early days of the House of Tudor when, at the end of the 15th century, Henry VII commissioned explorers to seek out the most efficient way of reaching India by sea. One such explorer, the Italian John Cabot, inadvertently landed in North America in 1497, possibly coming ashore at Newfoundland, Labrador or Cape Breton Island.

By the time Henry VII's granddaughter, Elizabeth I, reached the throne, English foreign policy was largely based on defence rather than expansion. Nonetheless, in 1584 Walter Raleigh was granted a royal charter to establish a settlement in North America, sending a group of settlers to Roanoke in Virginia the following year to set up a colony. It was the first attempt at the English colonisation of what would later become the United States.

In 1600, Elizabeth granted a royal

An official of the British East India Company rides on an elephant with an escort; prior to the British Raj, the company effectively ruled India

Walter Raleigh sent the first colonists to Roanoke in 1585, but they abandoned the settlement the following year

British goods are sold in Canton (now Guangzhou) in this 1858 print. Britain gained access to Chinese trade through gunboat diplomacy – the two Opium Wars

charter to the East India Company, with the express purpose of trading extensively in the Indian Ocean region and beyond, an area where both the Portuguese and the Dutch already had well established trade networks. The East India Company became extraordinarily successful, expanding rapidly to the point where it was controlling half of the world's trade.

The East India Company was no mere commercial body, though; it blurred the distinction between trade and politics. By the turn of the 19th century and aided by its own private army, whose number was twice that of the British Army it effectively ruled, through the installation of puppet leaders, a very large proportion of India. The company also played a huge part in opening China up to trade, thanks to its cultivation of opium in Bengal, and its subsequent export to the port of Canton, which led to the two Opium Wars between Britain and China. The upshot of the First Opium War was the ceding of Hong Kong in 1842, a territory that would become a keystone of the British Empire for many subsequent decades.

"The East India Company was no mere commercial body: it blurred the distinction between trade and politics"

Speaking in the House of Commons in 1833, the MP Thomas Babington Macaulay observed that the East India Company's apparent *raison d'être* trade had become "auxiliary to its sovereignty". However, it was living on borrowed time. After the Indian Rebellion, which began in 1857, the company was abolished, with the subcontinent coming under the direct control of the crown known as the British Raj.

"When Victoria came to the throne, Britain's most important colony was India. Victoria herself became Empress of India in 1877 and she viewed the

GETTY IMAGES X3

KEY EVENTS IN THE 19TH-CENTURY EXPANSION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Across a span of just 100 years, British influence spread rapidly across Africa, Asia and the Pacific

1802 — Ceylon (present-day Sri Lanka) is declared a crown colony

1808 — The crown colony of Sierra Leone is established

1813 — The islands of Malta and Gozo are formally annexed

1831 — The colony of British Guyana is formed

1841 — The colony of New Zealand is formed

1843 — Hong Kong becomes a crown colony

1849 — The Punjab in India is annexed; Vancouver Island becomes a crown colony

1858 — The British crown assumes the East India Company's governmental authority in India

1867 — Three former colonies (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Canada) unite to form the new nation of Canada

1874 — Fiji becomes a British colony

1877 — The British High Commission for the Western Pacific Islands is created

1878 — Cyprus is occupied by the British

1881 - 1919 — The Scramble for Africa: Britain controls territories in Africa stretching from Cairo to Cape Town (*see map opposite*)

1887 — The Maldives, an archipelago of 2,000 coral islands, are taken under British protection

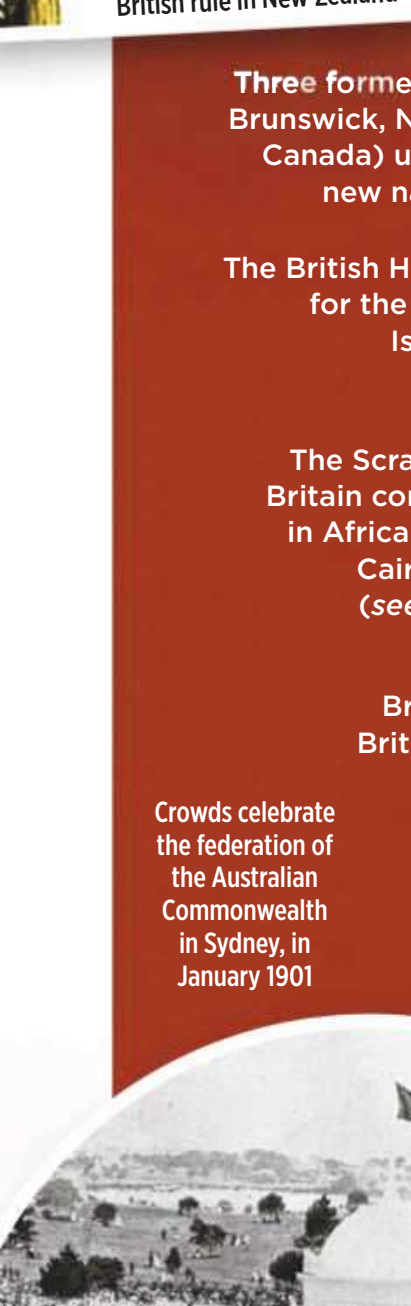
1889 — Brunei becomes a British protectorate; Trinidad and Tobago became a joint colony

1892 — The Falkland Islands become a British colony

1896 — The Federated Malay States are formed

1899 — The emirate of Kuwait becomes a British Protectorate

1901 — The six separate British self-governing colonies of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, and Western Australia form the Commonwealth of Australia



Māori chiefs sign the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, establishing British rule in New Zealand

Hong Kong became a valuable trading post for Britain

Crowds celebrate the federation of the Australian Commonwealth in Sydney, in January 1901

Mines like this one in Kimberley, South Africa, offered up one of the continents most prized resources: diamonds

country as the jewel in her crown", says Richardson. "And it is really in India that you can see the foundations being laid for what's often known as a 'moral imperative' for an empire the idea that Britain had a moral obligation to bring its values of democracy and industry and free trade and all of those sorts of things to other countries. The idea of 'civilising' the people they ruled was very important to the Victorians."

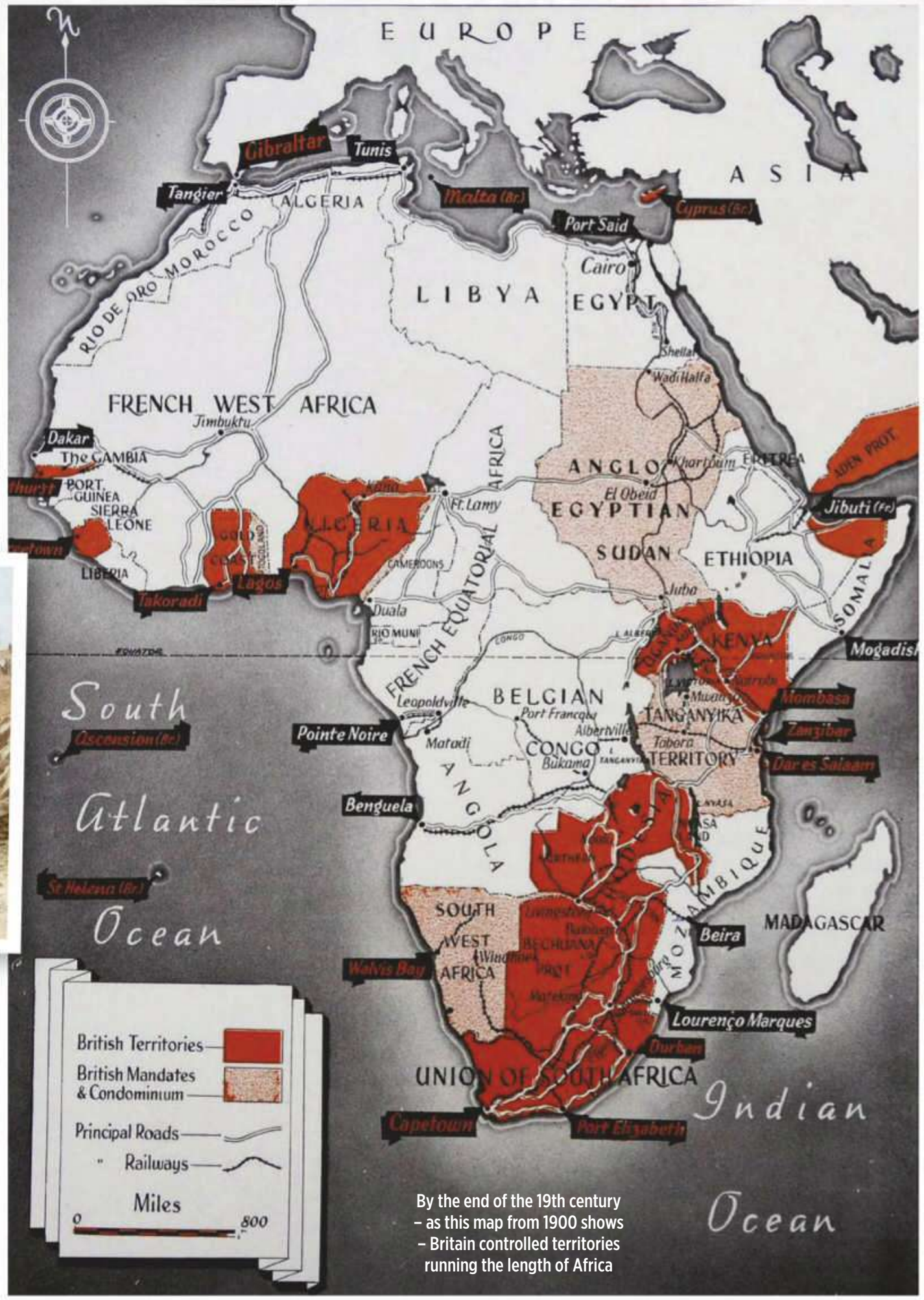
EXPANDING BOUNDARIES

Britain's stronghold in south Asia, both commercially and politically, was further strengthened with the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, the body of water that offered a dramatically speedier passage to India. In 1882, Britain took control of the canal from the French, a move that precipitated an expansion of the empire's boundaries. Starting in the early 1880s, the so called 'Scramble for Africa' saw the imperial tentacles stretch deep into that continent.

Having already colonised large parts of West Africa including modern day Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana and the Gambia earlier in the century, Britain effectively took control of Egypt, the country that the canal ran through. From there, expansion spread in a southerly direction, through Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and down into southern Africa. By 1902 and the end of the Second Boer War, the map of Britain's African colonies and protectorates traced a huge swathe across the continent, from Port Said in the north to the Cape of Good Hope on the southern tip.

Africa was rich in raw materials and natural resources, such as gold and diamonds. In return, it offered a substantial market for British-

Crowds gathered at the inauguration of the Suez Canal, a prized shortcut in the journey to India



By the end of the 19th century – as this map from 1900 shows – Britain controlled territories running the length of Africa

produced goods as did the rest of the empire, of course.

The Empire's expansion wasn't taken as a given; colonies were often far from acquiescent when it came to coming under the rule of the British crown. Uprisings were a recurring motif of the Victorian imperial age, whether it was the Indian Rebellion that ultimately did for the East India Company, or the First Taranaki War in New Zealand (1860 61), or Jamaica's Morant Bay Rebellion of 1865.

EDGING TOWARDS AN END

Certain colonies that had been staples of empire for many decades, and which were comparatively peaceful places, were rewarded with 'dominion' status, making them semi-independent. Canada was the first of these, in 1867, with Australia following suit in 1901. However, and certainly in the early case of Canada, this new status was decidedly limited. London retained the right to overrule decisions made across the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government.

After its peak during the Victorian era, the Empire began to recede during the 20th century, with the British economy significantly crippled by the cost of two world wars. Many of the colonies, protectorates and dominions embarked on a programme of national self-determination. In 1957, ten years after independence had been granted to India, Ghana, too, removed itself from colonial control, followed by the rest of Britain's African colonies. Across the Atlantic, throughout the 1960s, '70s and '80s, the various islands that made up the British West Indies also extricated themselves from direct rule by London.

"Colonies were often far from acquiescent when it came to coming under the rule of the British crown"

From its height during Queen Victoria's long reign, when a quarter of the world's landmass was under the Crown, the British Empire had entered its twilight.

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FOR QUEEN & COUNTRY

Victoria's reign was marked with conquests, invasions and battles

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

Throughout the 19th century, the British Empire continued to grow, though at a cost – there is not one decade of Victoria's reign that did not see some form of conflict in the Empire. During her time on the throne, British and Imperial soldiers faced battle across India, Africa, South-East Asia and Eastern Europe. Here, we examine four of the most famous conflicts of the era, which continue to resonate – whether for their privations or political implications.

DID YOU KNOW?

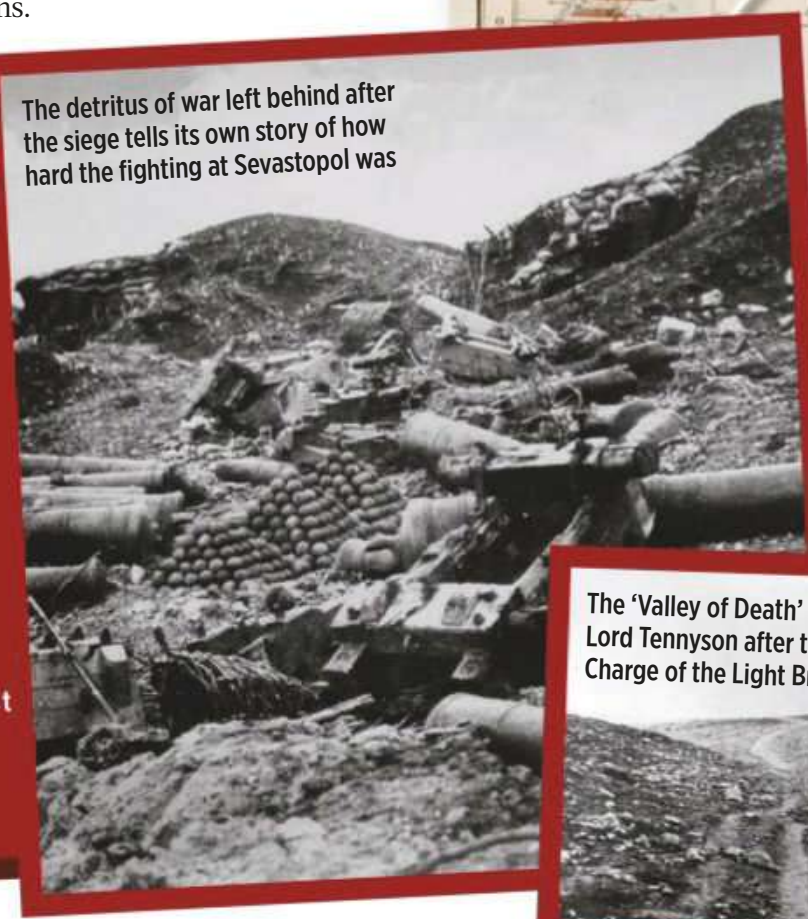
POWER OF THE PRESS

The Crimean War was the first in the world to be covered in newspapers – those back In Britain saw images of battle for the first time. This helped spread news of the work of nurses like Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole.

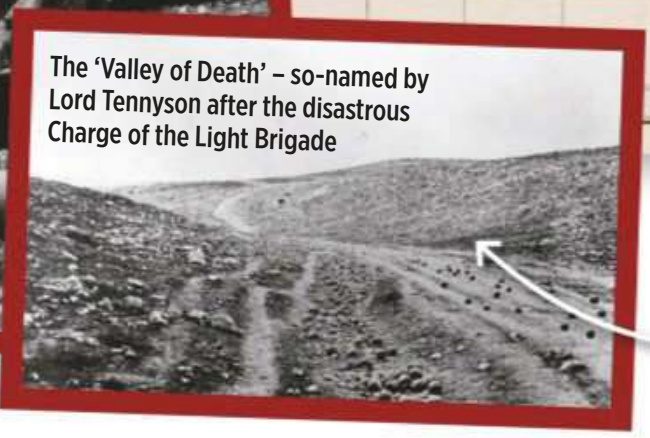
THE CRIMEAN WAR (1853–56)

A conflict that changed the control of power within Europe – weakening Russia

In 1853, Russia invaded the Danubian Principalities (modern Romania), causing the Ottoman Empire (a state and caliphate that controlled much of Southeastern Europe, Western Asia, and Northern Africa) under Sultan Abdulmejid I, to declare war. Britain and France, wary of Russian expansion, joined the Ottomans, taking part in an 11-month siege of Sevastopol on the Crimean Peninsula. Thousands of soldiers died from diseases such as typhoid and dysentery and the harsh winter, as well as the brutal battles of Alma, Inkerman and Balaclava. Peace was finally achieved when Austria threatened to join against Russia – the Ottoman Empire maintained hold of its territories, and Russia was forbidden from keeping a navy on the Black Sea.



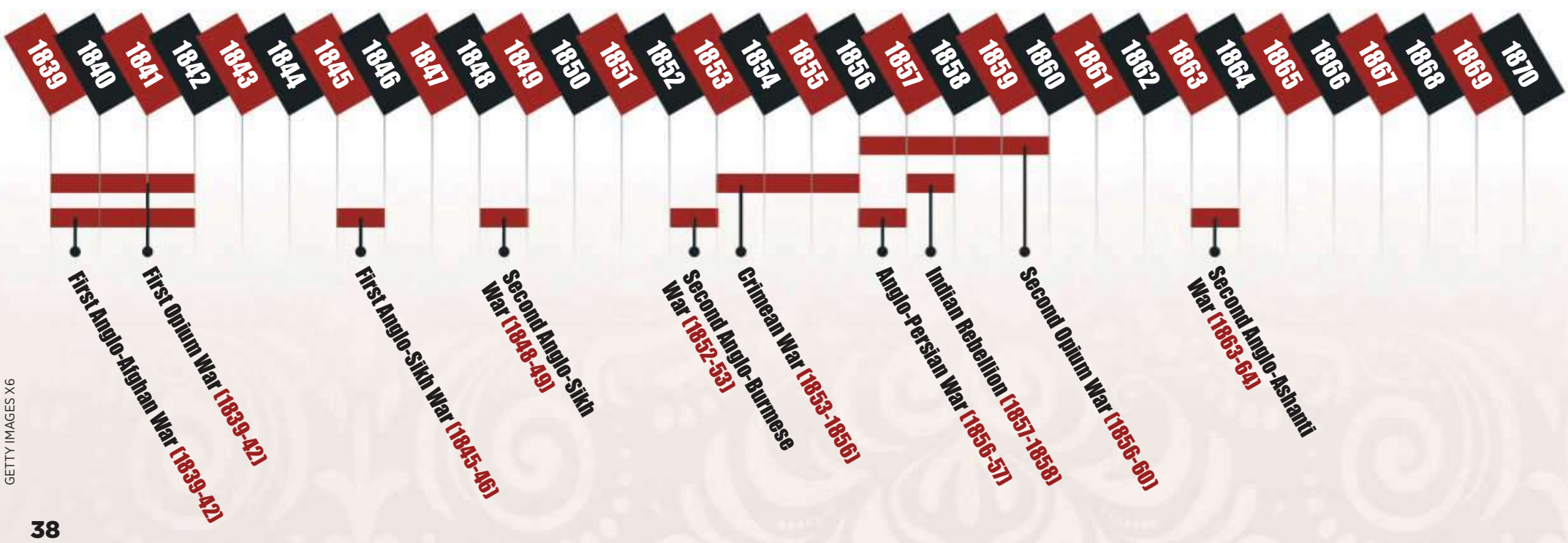
The detritus of war left behind after the siege tells its own story of how hard the fighting at Sevastopol was



The 'Valley of Death' – so-named by Lord Tennyson after the disastrous Charge of the Light Brigade

MORE WARS

Some of the Victorian era's other conflicts



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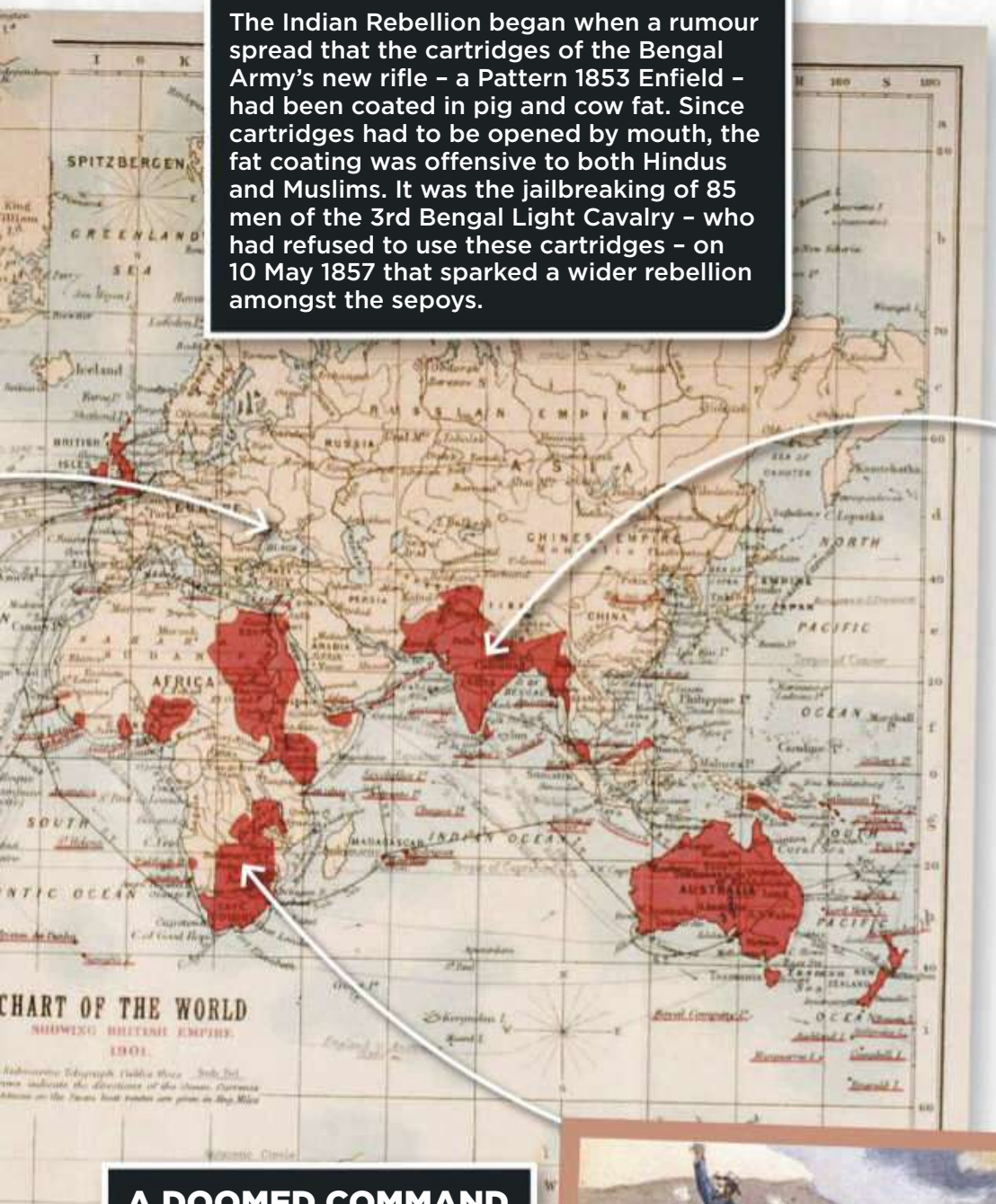
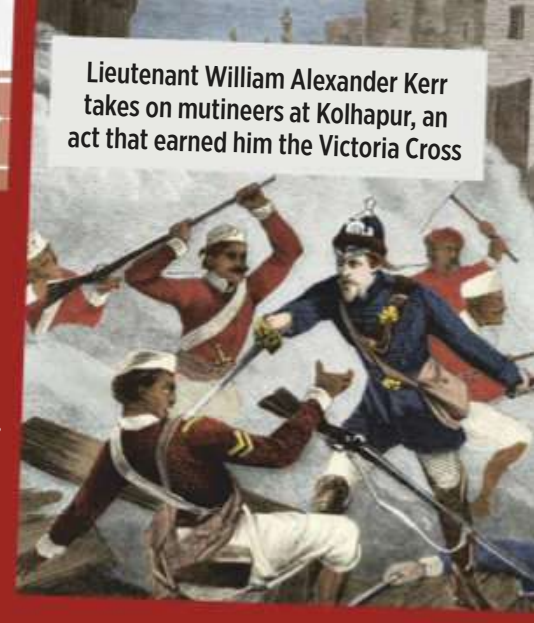


THE SPARK THAT LIT THE FLAME

The Indian Rebellion began when a rumour spread that the cartridges of the Bengal Army's new rifle – a Pattern 1853 Enfield – had been coated in pig and cow fat. Since cartridges had to be opened by mouth, the fat coating was offensive to both Hindus and Muslims. It was the jailbreaking of 85 men of the 3rd Bengal Light Cavalry – who had refused to use these cartridges – on 10 May 1857 that sparked a wider rebellion amongst the sepoys.



Lieutenant William Alexander Kerr takes on mutineers at Kolhapur, an act that earned him the Victoria Cross

THE INDIAN REBELLION (1857–58)

The rebellion started with Indian soldiers against their commanders – though unsuccessful, it bolstered calls for independence

Since the 17th century, the East India Company had gradually been carving out territory in India, ultimately becoming the country's leading power at the expense of existing Indian rulers. In 1857, rebellion broke out among the Company's *sepoys* (Indian infantry) in Meerut – ostensibly over gun cartridges (*see box left*) but fuelled by wider resentments about the erosion of Indian culture – which rapidly spread to Delhi and beyond. The rebellion was quashed and the East India Company was nationalised; direct rule was imposed over India, ushering in the British Raj.

A DOOMED COMMAND

During the Crimean Battle of Balaclava, the infamous Charge of the Light Brigade saw around 670 British cavalrymen charge headlong into Russian fire with little chance of survival – all due to a miscommunication of orders. The disastrous incident would later inspire poet Lord Tennyson and even heavy metal band Iron Maiden.

The Boers won several victories early in the second war

SOUTH AFRICAN WARS

(Sometimes known as the Boer Wars; 1880–81 & 1899–1902)

During the late 19th century, Britain tried to gain control of modern-day South Africa

In 1877, tensions between the Boers (descendants of Dutch, German and Huguenot settlers) and the British became strained after the British annexed the Transvaal (the British name for the Boers' South African Republic), and erupted into war in December 1880. The fighting was short-lived, with the Boers securing victory (and partial independence) in March – although it remained under British suzerainty. Relations soured again in 1899, a result of the discovery of gold in the region. A longer, bloodier war followed, the last two years of which the Boers fought as a guerilla campaign. The British responded by rounding up Boer women and children into camps (where many died of starvation) and deployed 'scorched earth' tactics – Boer territory was deliberately and systematically devastated to deprive the guerrilla fighters of food and shelter. The Boers eventually conceded; the treaty that followed ended Boer independence.

AT LEAST 400,000

Number of soldiers believed to have been involved in the Second South African War from Britain and the Empire, including up to 30,000 black Africans.

Queen Victoria lost her husband, Albert, two years after this 1859 painting was completed. She famously remained in mourning for the rest of her life and never remarried

VICTORIA: QUEEN, WIFE, MOTHER

Victoria and Albert created a new kind of royal family, free from scandal and extramarital affairs, but life behind closed doors wasn't always plain sailing

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

Queen Victoria is one of Britain's most iconic monarchs. Her 63-year rule surpassed any of her predecessors and was only surpassed by Queen Elizabeth II in 2015. Her rule saw Britain and its empire undergo massive change – physically, in terms of its size, and socially, too, as society was brought into the modern age.

As well as her long reign, Victoria shares another similarity with Elizabeth II, as professor Sarah Richardson explains – neither was meant to be queen. "Like our own queen, Elizabeth II, Victoria grew up not expecting to inherit the throne. It was only when Elizabeth's uncle, Edward VIII, abdicated that her father, George, became king. It was pretty much the same with Victoria; as the daughter of a fourth son, it wasn't likely that she would ever become queen."

In 1817, a succession crisis loomed when Princess Charlotte, the only legitimate daughter of the Prince Regent (the future George IV), died during childbirth. George III had 15 children, but, by 1817, only one had produced a legitimate heir. The following year, George III's fourth son, Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, hurriedly married Princess Victoire of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld (later the Duchess of Kent), and Victoria was born on 24 May 1819.

MAIN: **Princess Victoria with her mother, Victoire, the Duchess of Kent**

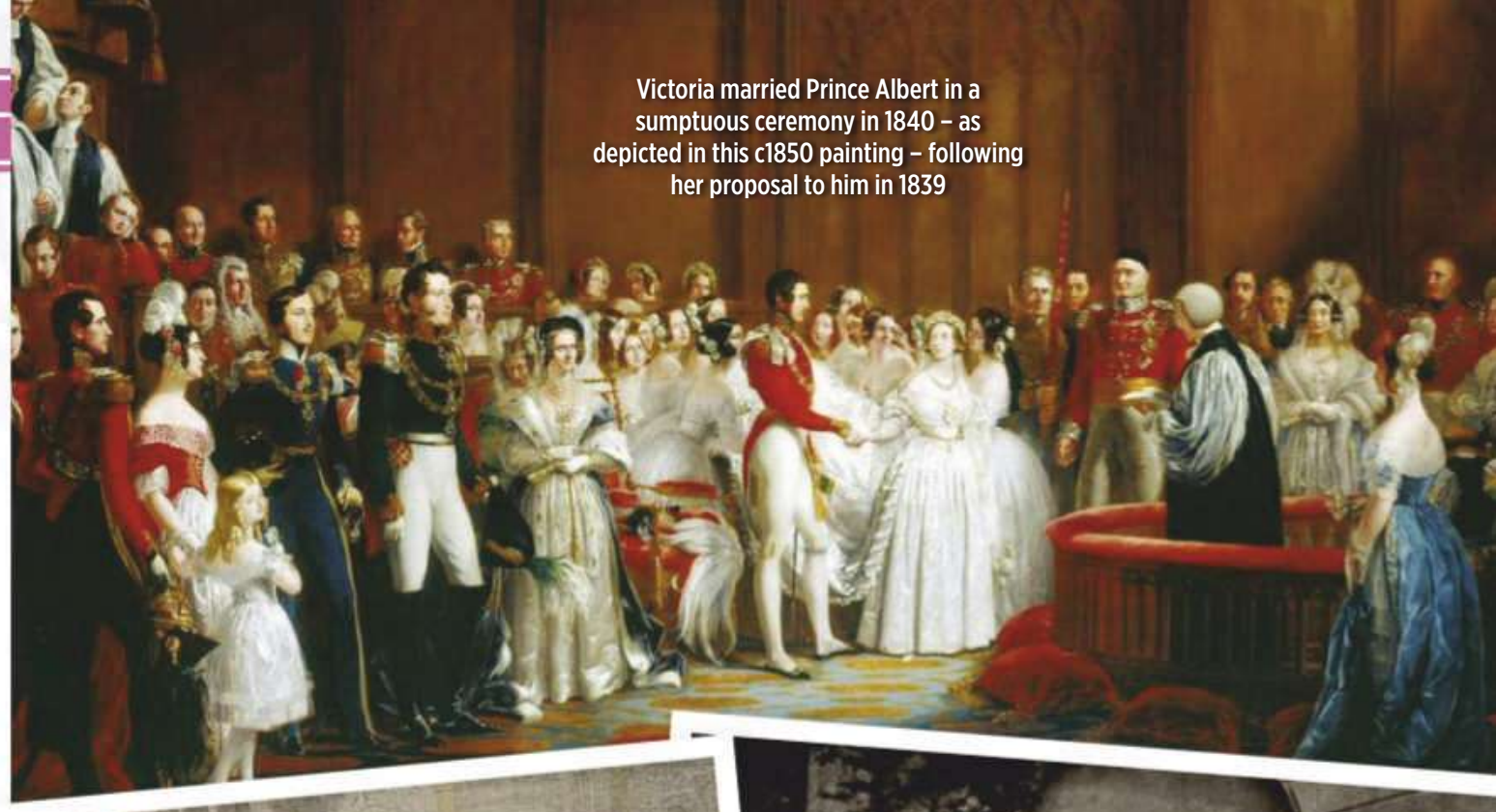
BELOW: **Prince Edward, Victoria's father, was the fourth son of King George III**

TROUBLED CHILDHOOD

Prince Edward died when Victoria was less than a year old, and she grew up under the care of her mother and Sir John Conroy, her father's former equerry. Victoria's childhood was far from happy - Conroy and Victoire kept her under strict governance in Kensington Palace, away from other children and the royal court; she even had to be accompanied down the stairs in case an accident befell her. Hoping to wield power through the future queen, the ambitious Conroy attempted to persuade Victoria – and others – that she wasn't fit to rule. If Victoria had become queen before she was legally an adult, then a regent would have been appointed, likely the Duchess of Kent, who was under Conroy's control. To Conroy's dismay, though, Victoria celebrated her 18th birthday a month before she became queen.

In the early hours of 20 June 1837, Victoria was told that her uncle, ▶

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X1



Victoria married Prince Albert in a sumptuous ceremony in 1840 – as depicted in this c1850 painting – following her proposal to him in 1839

William IV, had died and that she was now Queen of Great Britain and Ireland. One of Victoria's first acts was to remove her mother from the bedroom they had shared for the young queen's entire life.

MAKING A MARK

As a woman thrust into what was at the time firmly a man's world, Victoria relied on the male figures who surrounded her. Her first prime minister, Lord Melbourne, became a favourite and father figure to the young queen, advising her on the intricacies of politics and government that she did not fully comprehend.

This was a theme that continued throughout her life, as Richardson points out: "Victoria was quite reliant on people guiding her in the early part of her reign, she leaned on Prime Minister Lord Melbourne. But although she did rely on advice from male advisers, Victoria knew her own mind, and her own position. She also wanted to be able to stamp her authority on the role of the monarch. She was quite determined."

This determination was demonstrated during the Bedchamber Crisis of 1839. When Whig prime minister Lord Melbourne resigned, his successor, Robert Peel a Tory demanded that Victoria dismiss her Whig ladies in waiting in favour of Tory replacements. Victoria refused. In retaliation, Peel refused to form a government and become the country's prime minster. To resolve matters, Lord Melbourne was persuaded to stay on for another term.

ABOVE LEFT: **Prime Minister Lord Melbourne (shown in this c1895 print) was a strong influence during Victoria's early reign**

ABOVE RIGHT: **Victoria and Albert were seen as the model Victorian family**

LOVE AND DUTY

It wasn't long before thoughts turned to Victoria's marriage. Both her mother and her uncle, Leopold I of Belgium, wanted her to marry her first cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg and Gotha. Victoria had first met Albert when she was 17, and he hadn't bowled her over. Further meetings changed her mind about the match and they were married in February 1840.

Victoria kept a journal throughout most of her life, and her diary entries show that she and Albert had an affectionate marriage although tempestuous. Victoria was quick to anger, and Albert resented his lower status, both in the household and in the marriage.

Albert was very interested in politics and soon took over the role that Melbourne had once performed. "Once

ABOVE: **John Brown brought Victoria out of her shell with pony rides at Balmoral**

RIGHT: **Abdul Karim taught Victoria to read and write Urdu**

LIFE AFTER ALBERT

Victoria found companionship with two male servants after Albert's death

Albert's untimely death caused Victoria to withdraw from the world. However, there were two male servants with whom she struck up notable friendships. John Brown worked at the Scottish royal residence Balmoral, and encouraged the queen to come out of her seclusion for pony rides. He fulfilled a role that Victoria had lost when Albert died, as Richardson suggests: "John Brown played the role of confidante, of somebody Victoria could unload on. And I think that was probably very important for her, because she never remarried."

In 1877, Victoria officially received the title of Empress of India and became fascinated with the country. In 1887, an Indian servant, Abdul Karim, became a particular favourite of hers. He taught her to read and write in Urdu and introduced her to curry – a dish she became very fond of. Victoria gave Karim the title of *Munshi* (teacher), and took advice from him on Indian affairs. The closeness between the queen and her Indian servant caused uproar and disapproval in the royal household; when Edward VII came to the throne he sent Karim back to India and burned much of the pair's correspondence.

This portrait was commissioned for Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. She was still in mourning and wore a portrait of Albert in her bracelet

"She wanted to be able to stamp her authority on the role of the monarch. She was quite determined"

Victoria married Albert, he acted as her political adviser; he was much more politically aware than she was," says Richardson. Albert was also fascinated with social reform (he supported the abolition of slavery for example) and innovation, spearheading the Great Exhibition of 1851. This grand spectacle championed Britain as a world leader in industry and attracted exhibitors and visitors from all over the world.

MOTHER TO THE NATION

Pregnancy was one aspect of marriage that Victoria did not relish. In total, she and Albert had nine children, all of whom survived childhood, and it's thought the queen may have suffered from post natal depression after some of these pregnancies. Victoria also disliked the fact that motherhood took her away from her role as queen, with Albert taking over some of her duties.

While Victoria is often seen as a rather distant parent who herself admitted to a dislike of babies, Albert took a great interest in his children's development and education, holding them to very high standards. Both were extremely devoted parents in their own ways, and together Victoria, Albert and their children became the epitome of the model Victorian family. Victoria's predecessors had often been plagued by scandal, with illegitimate children and mistresses, and she was keen to restore the monarchy's reputation.

But in 1861, Victoria's world crumbled when Albert died, probably from typhoid. The queen went into a period of deep mourning and wasn't seen in public for a number of years. She continued to wear black for the rest of her reign, but returned to public life in 1872 her first public appearance in over 10 years was a thanksgiving service for her son, Edward, Prince of Wales, who had recovered from a bout of typhoid.

During Victoria's long absence, republican sentiment grew, but much of this was put to rest towards the end of her reign as she emerged from her seclusion. The celebrations for her golden and diamond jubilees in 1887 and 1897 respectively, saw the whole nation enjoy festivities and parties.

Queen Victoria died on 22 January 1901, at the impressive age of 81. She was buried with a plaster cast of Albert's hand as well as a lock of her manservant and rumoured lover John Brown's hair (*see box on opposite page*). She had succeeded in restoring the royal family's reputation as a family to admire and emulate.

GRANDMOTHER OF EUROPE

Victoria's descendants were scattered across Europe, connecting royal dynasties

Victoria was certainly a matchmaker with her nine children and 42 grandchildren – ensuring dynastic alliances across Europe and earning her the title of the 'grandmother of Europe'. Her descendants were married into the monarchies of Denmark, Russia, Germany, Spain and Norway.

The queen's eldest son, the future Edward VII, had a difficult upbringing. As heir to the throne, both Victoria and Albert expected a lot of him, but he didn't excel academically. As he grew up, Edward gained a reputation as a playboy and represented a new breed of the fashionable elite. Two weeks before his own death, Albert had reprimanded Edward for having a scandalous affair with an actress. Albert returned home and soon fell ill and died; Victoria would hold Edward partly responsible for his father's death. .

Victoria's eldest daughter, Vicky, the Princess Royal, married Prince Frederick of Prussia, and their first son became Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. During World War I, cousin was pitted against cousin – Wilhelm even suggested that World War I may not have happened if Victoria was still alive, as she would not have allowed it to happen.

One of Victoria's favourite granddaughters, Princess Alix, the daughter of Princess Alice, married the future Tsar Nicholas II of Russia. She – along with her husband and children – met a horrific end after the Russian Revolution when they were assassinated by the Bolsheviks (*see our feature on the Romanovs on page 70*).

Victoria and her family in 1894. Kaiser Wilhelm II sits in the front row, far left, with Tsar Nicholas II behind, and the future Edward VII behind him

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X2

The middle classes increasingly indulged in leisure activities, such as this family on a rowing boat, c1865

VICTORIAN DAILY LIFE

As the rich got richer on the spoils of the empire, the working classes suffered grinding poverty

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

The Victorian era is widely regarded as a golden age of innovation and industry, when humanity made great leaps in technology and thinking. But what was life like for 'ordinary' Victorians whose daily struggle for survival was far away from the sweeping progress and prosperity? "Pretty grim", answers Professor Sarah Richardson. "Life expectancy at birth for the average Victorian was about 42, and more than 25 per cent of children died before their fifth birthday. Disease was rife – there were four major outbreaks of cholera alone between 1832 and 1866. And although, in general, standards of living did improve over the period, a third of the population was still living in poverty at the end of the 19th century.

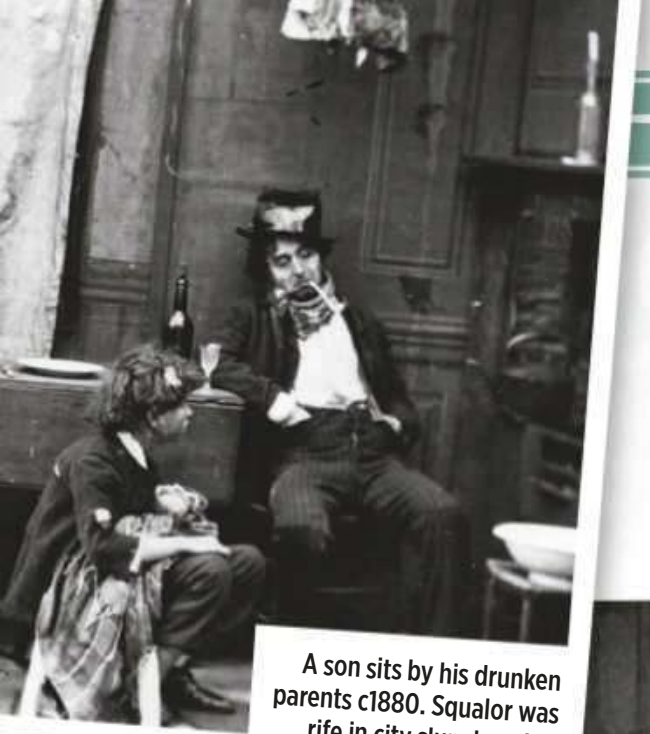
"Of course, there was some light on the horizon universal education came in during the 1870s, there were improvements in health and sanitation, and also the introduction of leisure pursuits such as football, libraries, music halls and the like. So it wasn't all doom and gloom, but life wasn't a positive story for most Victorian working class people."

Child workers, like this street peddlar, were a common sight in Victorian times

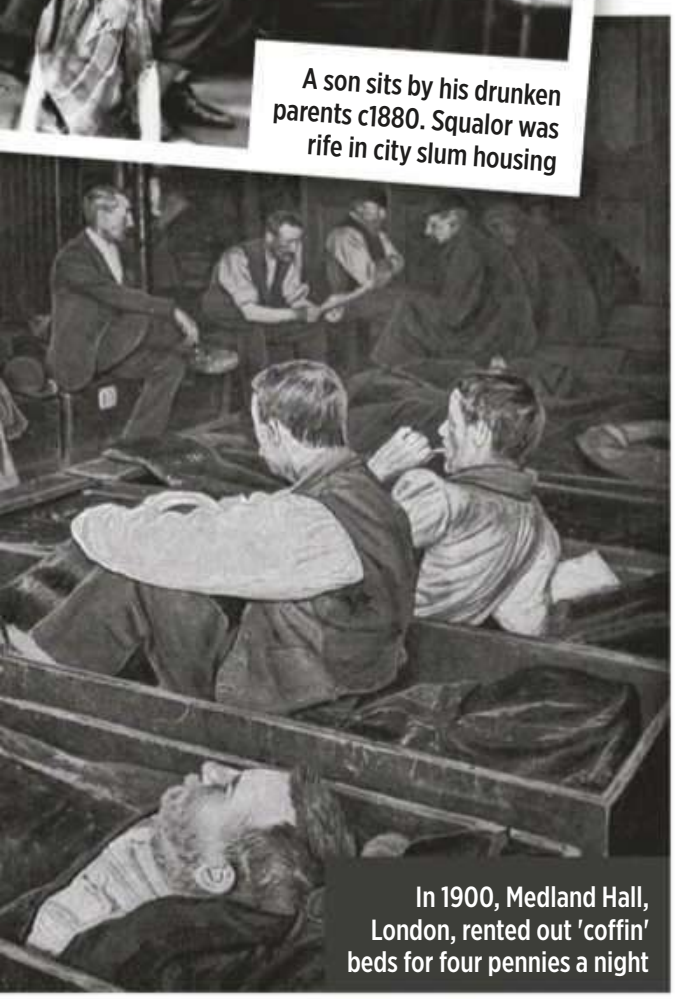
GETTY IMAGES X6

GRIM CITY LIVING

Between 1800 and 1850, England's population doubled, and as factories sprung up across the country, churning out the products of Britain's imperial expansion, and new technology meant fewer farm workers were needed, thousands flocked from the countryside to the city in search of work. The cost of accommodation rocketed as demand increased, and many families were forced to live side by side in slum housing – hastily built houses, known as tenements, divided into individual rooms in which entire families would live. Conditions were terrible: many houses flooded or collapsed, and sanitation was non-existent. Lodging, or 'doss', houses were common, renting out cheap beds for the night. For the homeless, an alternative to sleeping on the streets or entering the workhouse was a 'penny sit-up' where, for the price of a penny, you could sit – but not lie – on a bench for the night. Two pence could see you upgraded to a bench with a rope strung up to lean over, while four pennies would pay for a wooden coffin



A son sits by his drunken parents c1880. Squalor was rife in city slum housing



In 1900, Medland Hall, London, rented out 'coffin' beds for four pennies a night

in which to bed down.

Poor children fared little better. Until 1842, when new laws were introduced which prevented children under 10 working underground, children made up 25 per cent of the workforce in mines, factories, and workshops. Infants as young as four could be found deep underground, holding open ventilator doors for coal wagons to pass through, usually pushed by other children. Britain's factories, too, employed thousands of child workers – smaller than adults, they could crawl beneath moving machines to clean and tidy. It's small wonder that accidents and deaths were so common.

If you were lucky enough to have been born into a middle-class family, though, – a social class of merchants, bankers, doctors and the like, which emerged and grew rapidly during this period - life would have been easier. As the Empire expanded and industry grew, the newly rich enjoyed the sorts of luxuries once afforded only by the super wealthy. Domestic servants could be hired, shopping trips taken and even excursions to the seaside were possible. The Victorian era was a golden age for the middle class.

LIFE IN THE WORKHOUSE

The Victorian period saw a dramatic shake-up of existing forms of social welfare, and the expansion of one of the era's most notorious institutions

One of the biggest changes to the lives of the poor took place in 1834, when, faced with the return of unemployed or injured servicemen from the Napoleonic Wars and a national poor relief bill that had quadrupled between 1795 and 1815 – from £2 million to £8 million – the British government passed the Poor Law Amendment Act.

The new system of poor relief was now administered by Unions – made up of groups of parishes – which would each operate a workhouse. Outdoor relief (money or assistance issued without requiring an individual to enter an institution) was mostly abolished: for the able-bodied poor, it was now the workhouse or nothing.

The workhouse was designed to be a deterrent, and life inside its walls was not supposed to be any easier or more pleasant than life as one of the lowest-paid workers outside in the community – the decision to enter was not one that was taken lightly. After being admitted to the workhouse, personal clothes were placed in storage, and inmates were issued with uniforms, given baths and subjected to medical examinations. Families were separated, as were the able and infirm. Men were put to work, performing physical labour such as bone crushing, stone breaking or oakum picking, while women were expected to take on domestic chores, such as cooking, laundry and sewing. Children, too, lived separately and were only permitted to see their parents for a few hours a week.

Food was basic and sparse. Inmates were usually provided with between 137 and 182 ounces of food per week, in addition to soup and gruel. At Andover Union Workhouse in Hampshire, inmates were so hungry that they were found gnawing at the old, mouldy animal bones they were meant to be crushing for fertiliser.

But entering the workhouse did not necessarily mean staying there forever. Many inmates who were employed in seasonal work used the workhouse to get through periods of hardship and unemployment.

One enduring problem faced by Victorian Poor Law Unions was how to assist the homeless poor, for whom no provision had been made in the 1834 act. What's more, Unions were only permitted to serve people who resided permanently within the Union boundaries. In 1840, casual blocks were introduced to workhouses, where homeless people could stay for one night per 30-day period. Although it varied from place to place, homeless people were generally subjected to harsher treatment than the so-called 'deserving poor' – those unable to work because they were sick, old or disabled.

The workhouse era is often seen to have officially ended in 1930, when the 643 Boards of Guardians in England and Wales were abolished. Many former workhouse buildings were destroyed, converted into public hospitals, or turned into museums – in remembrance of those Victorians who had nowhere else to turn.

DID YOU KNOW?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In 1900, a major overhaul was made to the workhouse diet, and Unions were allowed to create their own weekly menus from an approved list of about 50 dishes. Inmates could now tuck into Irish stew, pasties and roly-poly pudding.

Workhouses were meant to be unpleasant. Inmates worked hard (like these women hanging out laundry c1880). Reforms in 1900 improved the variety of workhouse food, although meals were still eaten in silence (*right*)

SEVEN EPIC FEATS OF IMAGINATION...

The Victorians were an inventive bunch, whose innovations have spread around the world

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

THE RAILWAY

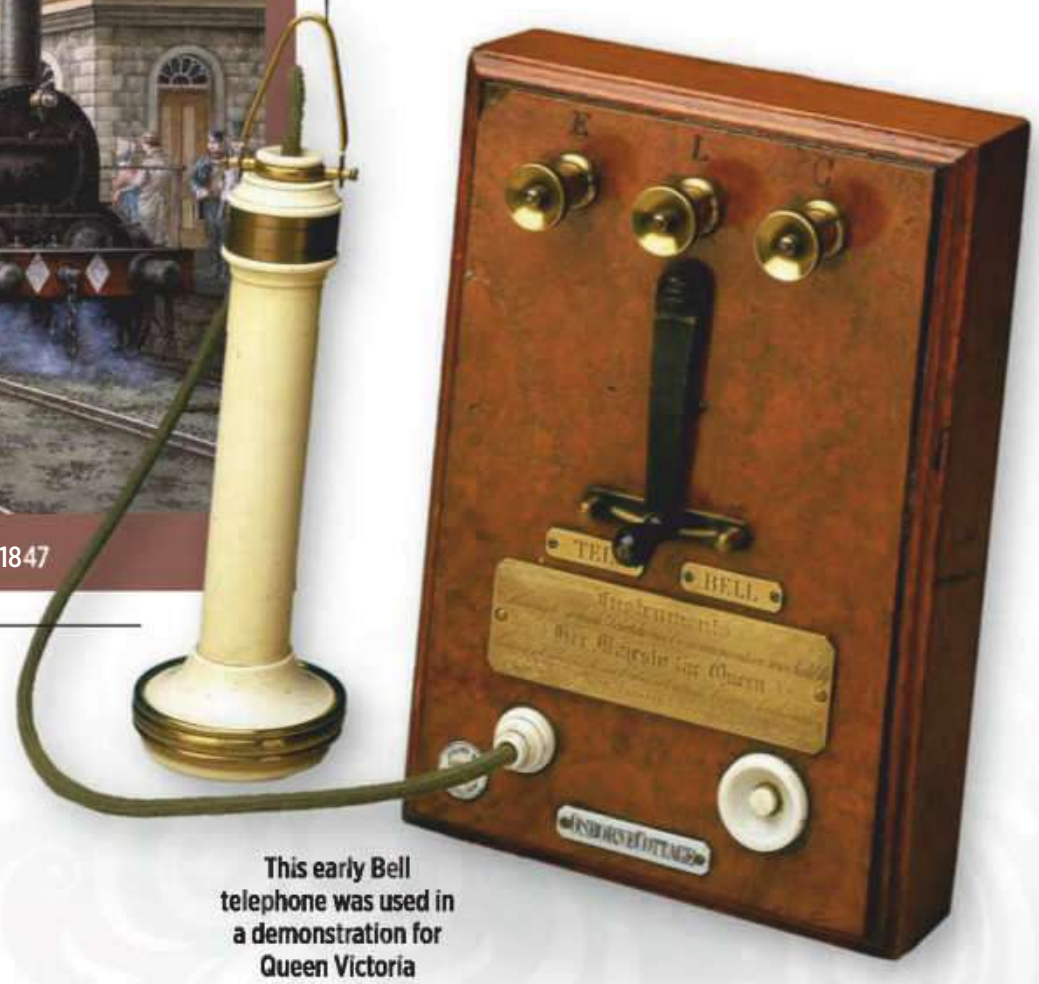
Steam locomotives were introduced in the late 18th century, but it was the Victorian era that saw the railways used to their full potential. Heavy investment was put into creating new lines, and by the end of Victoria's reign millions of people had become regular rail users. Being able to move goods around the Britain boosted industrialisation, and seaside towns thrived as holidaymakers flocked to their shores. As well as creating a rail network that could transport people across Britain, in 1863 London became the first place in the world to boast an underground railway system, allowing commuters and tourists to enjoy swifter journeys across the capital.

The broad gauge Iron Duke locomotive arrives at Chippenham Station, Wiltshire in 1847

GETTY IMAGES X8

TELECOMS

Keeping in touch with people became much easier during the Victorian era with the development of both the telegraph and the telephone. In 1837, British inventors William Fothergill Cooke and Charles Wheatstone were granted a patent for an electric telegraph that passed communications through wires. Elsewhere, on the other side of the Atlantic, Samuel Morse was developing a communication machine that used dots and dashes. In 1851, a telegraph cable was successfully installed in the English Channel and over the next few decades these cables spanned continents and oceans – Queen Victoria would send the first transatlantic telegraph to US President James Buchanan in 1858. In the US, in 1876, Scottish inventor Alexander Graham Bell patented his telephone, and by the early 20th century wireless telephone sets were being installed in homes across the world.



This early Bell telephone was used in a demonstration for Queen Victoria

KITCHEN GADGETS

The humble but ever-useful potato peeler and can opener were both created during the 19th century, as was the hand-cranked ice cream maker – a particular favourite. Thanks to advances in mass production during this time, such handy kitchen tools became affordable for many more Victorian households.

PHOTOGRAPHY

During the 1830s and 40s, the techniques used in photography were developed, with British inventor William Henry Fox Talbot successfully creating a usable negative using a camera by 1840. For the first time, people across Britain could see the face of their queen and the celebrities of the day. By the latter part of Victoria's reign, photography studios were popping up ready to capture family portraits.

DID YOU KNOW?

FULL EXPOSURE

The oldest surviving photograph is believed to have been taken in 1826 by French inventor Nicéphore Niépce with a camera osbcura. Showing his country estate, it's thought that the exposure would have taken a number of hours.

William Henry Fox Talbot (*right*) adjusts the lens on his camera at his Reading photography studio

The penny-farthing had a large wheel with a seat above and a smaller rear wheel – it certainly made a statement

THE BICYCLE

In the early 19th century, a precursor to the bicycle was devised by German inventor Karl Drais – his *Laufmaschine* had no pedals and was pushed along by the rider's feet. The penny-farthing and its mismatched wheels became popular from the 1870s, but it wasn't until 1885, when John Kemp Starley created his safety bicycle, that we see a design that resembles the modern bike. With a chain and rear-wheel drive it was far more stable than its predecessors.

An 1879 illustration shows onlookers admiring electric lights along the Thames

ELECTRIC LIGHTING

When Victoria became queen, candles had already been replaced by gas lighting. But gas wasn't ideal, as it could cause headaches as well as explosions. Electric lighting was developed in the 1870s by British inventor Joseph Swan, and 1879 saw a Newcastle street become the first in the world to be lit by electric lights. It wouldn't be until after World War I, though, that most homes were electrically illuminated.

THE STAMP

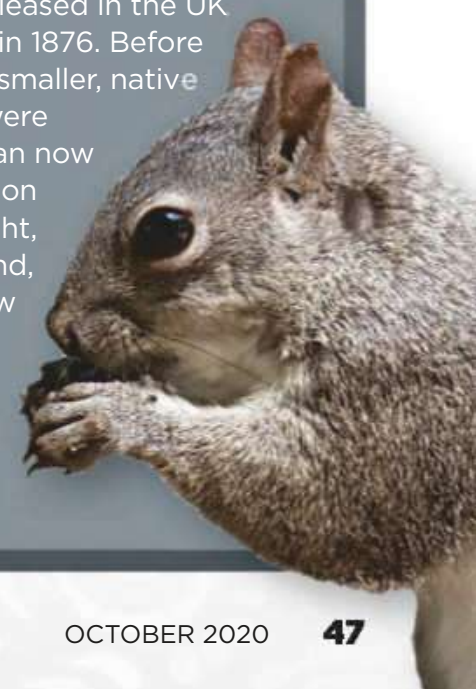
Before the invention of the stamp in 1840, the British postal system was unreliable, and recipients had to pay to receive a letter – if they didn't pay, they didn't receive their post. The first adhesive stamp, the Penny Black, featured a picture of Queen Victoria, and meant that the sender had prepaid for the letter. At just a penny, the stamp revolutionised the postal system and made it more widely affordable to send post around Britain.

The famous Penny Black stamp. Post boxes were also introduced as part of postal reforms

...AND ONE EPIC FAIL

GREY SQUIRRELS

Not every Victorian innovation was a success and our 19th-century forebears are responsible for several bad ideas, including the introduction of the American grey squirrel. The first verifiable record of a pair of greys being released in the UK is in Cheshire, in 1876. Before long, Britain's smaller, native red squirrels were overrun and can now only be found on the Isle of Wight, Brownsea Island, Anglesey, a few pine forests in the north of England and the Scottish Highlands.



VICTORIAN VITTLES

Some Victorian fare is still popular today, but there are other dishes that remain very much of their time

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

MARROW TOAST

Bone marrow is the spongy tissue found inside some bones – might not sound appetising, but the Victorians loved it, especially when spread on toast. Even Queen Victoria herself is said to have been a fan, according to former royal chef Charles Elme Francatelli in his book *The Cook's Guide, and Housekeeper's & Butler's Assistant*.

A SUNDAY ROAST

We have the Victorians to thank for this quintessential British trend of roast meat, Yorkshire puddings and all the trimmings on a Sunday. Meat was not a luxury that most could afford to eat daily, so Sunday became the day to indulge. The joint was put in the oven in the morning and would be ready by the time the family returned from church.

CURRY

Indian food is often ranked as Britain's favourite cuisine, and we have Queen Victoria to thank for it. The East India Company brought curry to Britain and the first curry houses opened in the early 1800s – although not all approved of this 'foreign' food. The Queen took a liking to it, though, with chicken curry and daal being particular favourites.

GRUEL

It's hard to imagine anyone enjoying this enough to ask for more, even if you were Oliver Twist. This plain, watery thin porridge, which would have been eaten by the poorest Victorians, was made of ground cereals such as oats boiled with milk or water.

TREACLE TART

The Victorians loved sweet treats, and this pudding was both inexpensive and excellent at sating sugar cravings. Its main ingredient is golden syrup, or light treacle, a by-product of the sugar cane refining process that was first sold off as pig food. The only other ingredients needed for this simple tart are shortcrust pastry base, breadcrumbs and lemon juice.

JELLIED EELS

Originating in the East End of London in the 18th century, this fishy delicacy – found in eel, pie and mash shops as well as market stalls – was a firm Victorian favourite. The eels would be boiled in stock and allowed to set into a jelly before being eaten cold.

ALAMY X1, GETTY IMAGES X7

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

We have the Victorians to thank for many of our favourite Christmas traditions – as well as a popular ghost story

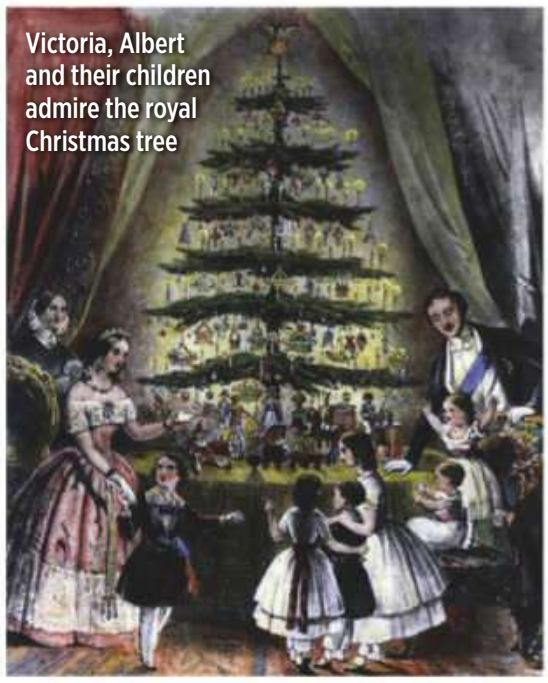
WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

The Victorians may not have invented Christmas, but they certainly introduced and revived many of the traditional elements we celebrate during the festive season today. Before the Victorian period, Christmas celebrations were muted affairs, with many of the working classes limited to just one day off. When Queen Victoria married Albert, however, the family became the heart of the Christmas period again, and the royals led by example.

Many traditions celebrated in Germany were popularised by Prince Albert, including the Christmas tree. After *The Illustrated London News* published an image of the royal family making merry around a tree, everyone wanted one, and so the tradition was born. Gift giving had traditionally been observed at New Year but, as the importance of Christmas increased, gifts began to be given on Christmas Day, with shop bought presents starting to replace homemade gifts.

As the focus of Christmas began to shift to family and children, the role played by Father Christmas also changed. The jolly fellow had previously been associated with adult celebrations, but now he became the bringer of gifts and added a magical element to the holiday. The singing of Christmas carols was also revived and the custom of kissing under the mistletoe which possibly had pagan roots became an acceptable way of stealing a Christmas kiss. Meanwhile, the reform of the postal system and introduction of the Penny Black stamp in 1840 making it easier to keep in touch with friends and relations helped launch the tradition of the Christmas card, the first of which appeared in 1843.

Roast turkey remains the customary fare for Christmas lunch and we can thank the Victorians for this, too. In the early 19th century, turkeys would have been too expensive for the majority of households to afford. But the development of the railway made them more accessible and affordable, and soon they had become the star attraction at Christmas dinner tables. The inclusion of a roast turkey at the end of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, also helped cement this meaty tradition.



Victoria, Albert and their children admire the royal Christmas tree

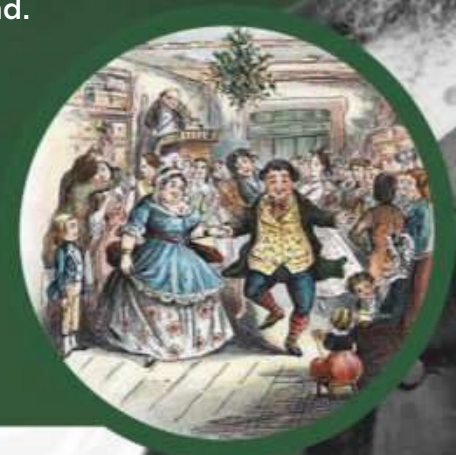
By the end of the century, turkey was the most popular choice of Christmas roast

The Christmas card revolution began with reforms to the postal service

CHARLES DICKENS

How a spooky story saved Christmas

When we think about the Victorian Christmas, often it's the fictional scenes from Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* that spring to mind. Published in 1843, this spooky ghost story was written after Dickens (*right*) had toured northern England and seen the plight of many of Britain's poor. It became one of his best-known works, and had the unexpected side-effect of reinvigorating the festive season and creating a sense of nostalgia for the celebrations of years gone by. It was so popular that its first edition sold out within a few days.

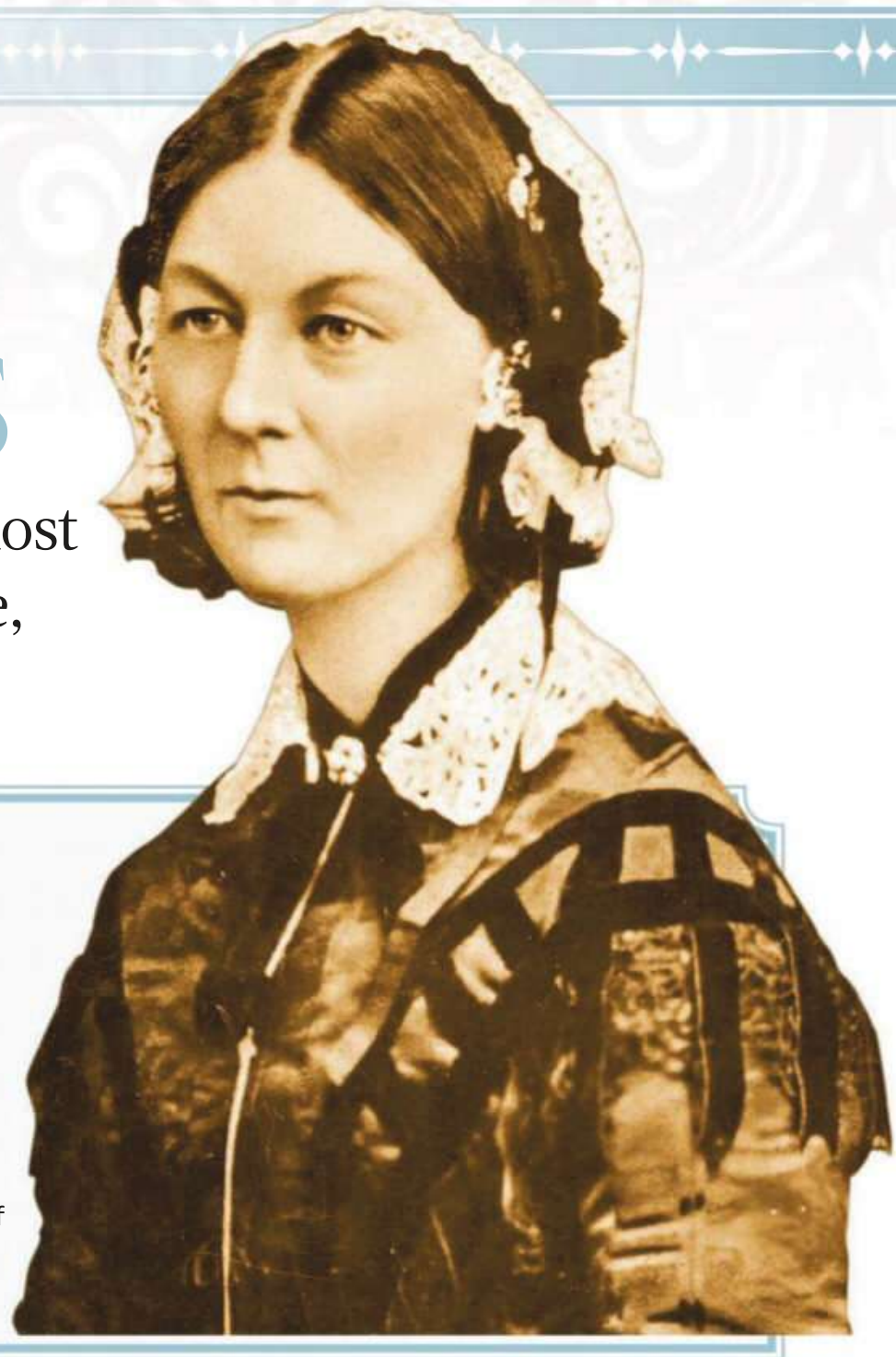


The joyful Mr Fezziwig (*below*) was a foil to the miserly Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*

BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY X1, GETTY IMAGES X6

FAMOUS VICTORIANS

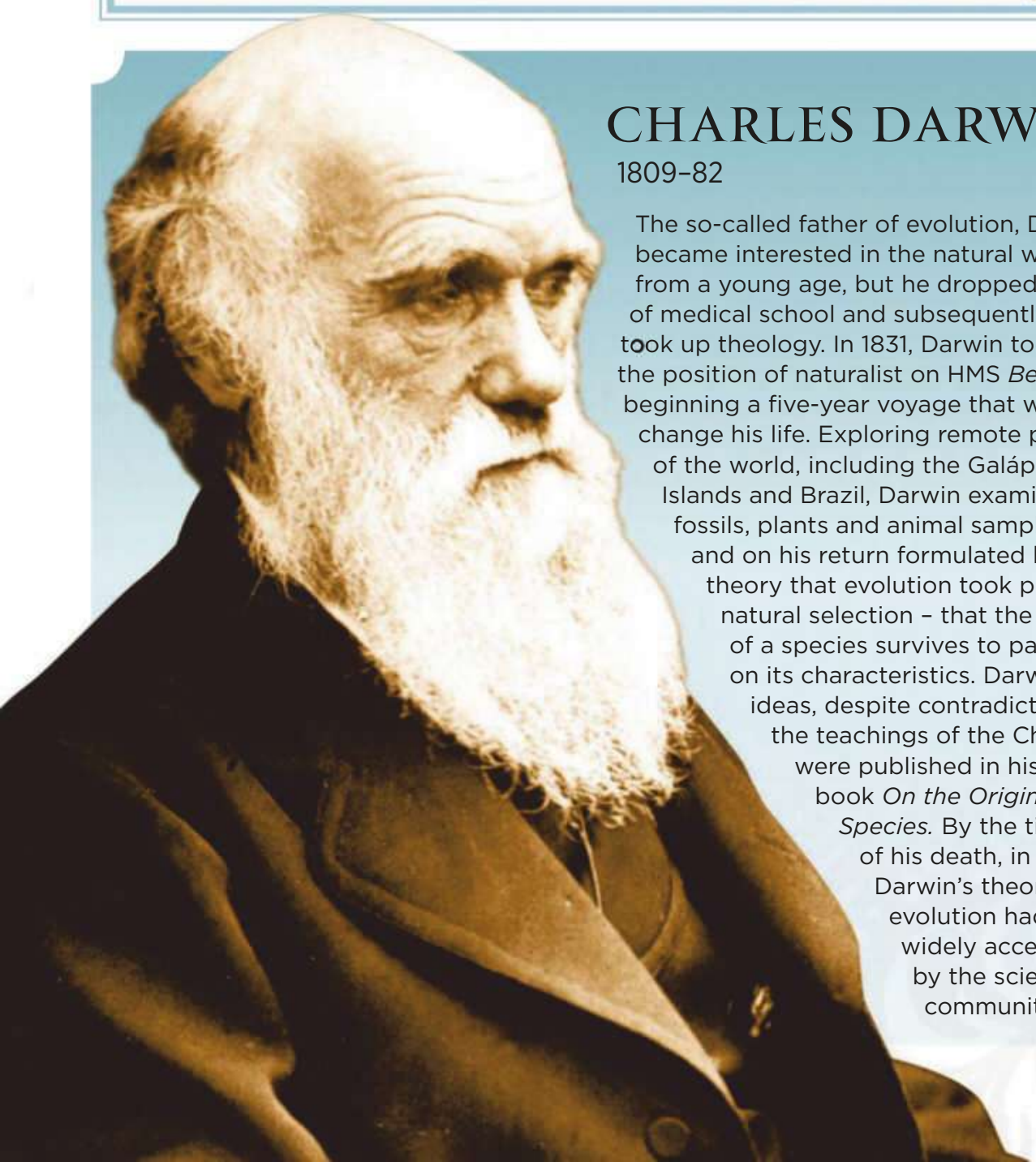
The Victorian era gave us some of the most famous faces from the worlds of science, literature and beyond **WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS**



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

1820–1910

The Lady with the Lamp transformed the nursing profession, making it a respectable role for women and saving countless lives by implementing simple changes. During the Crimean War (1853-6), Nightingale was sent to the field hospitals in modern-day Turkey. There, amongst other things, she introduced regular handwashing and the provision of clean clothes for patients, which saw rates of infection drop, as well promoting a high level of dignity and care to the soldiers she was looking after. Nightingale's reports on patient living conditions prompted a Royal Commission into the health of the British Army. In 1860, she opened the world's first secular nursing school in London and the advice in her book *Notes on Nursing* is still used as a practical guide to hygiene and caring.



CHARLES DARWIN

1809–82

The so-called father of evolution, Darwin became interested in the natural world from a young age, but he dropped out of medical school and subsequently took up theology. In 1831, Darwin took up the position of naturalist on HMS *Beagle*, beginning a five-year voyage that would change his life. Exploring remote parts of the world, including the Galápagos Islands and Brazil, Darwin examined fossils, plants and animal samples, and on his return formulated his theory that evolution took place by natural selection – that the fittest of a species survives to pass on its characteristics. Darwin's ideas, despite contradicting the teachings of the Church, were published in his 1859 book *On the Origin of Species.* By the time of his death, in 1882, Darwin's theories on evolution had been widely accepted by the scientific community.

ISAMBARD KINGDOM BRUNEL

1806–59

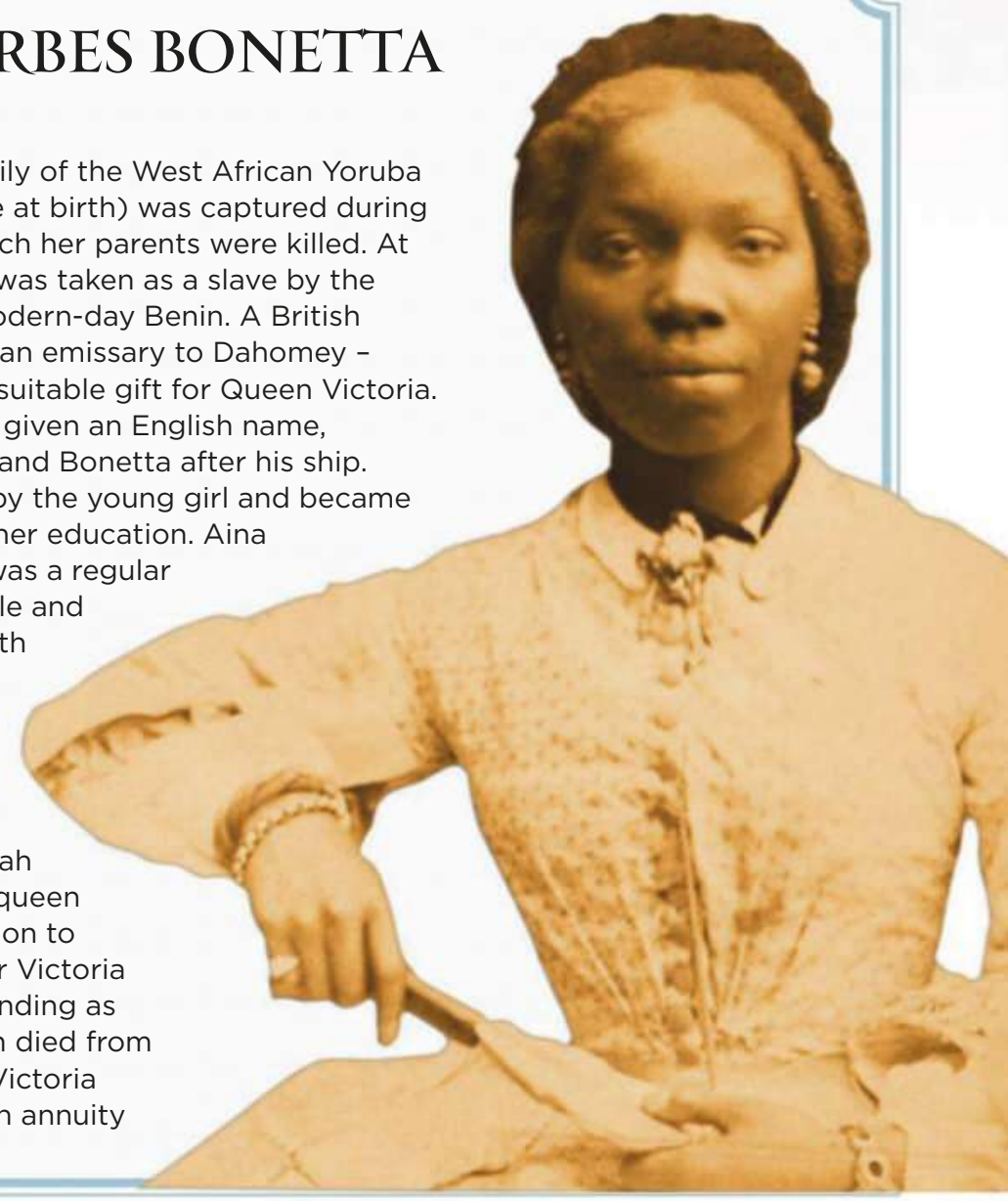
Engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel was the mastermind behind some of Victorian Britain's greatest engineering feats – from Bristol's Clifton Suspension Bridge and the SS *Great Britain* to an entire railway network. Brunel's first major engineering achievement was helping his father, also an engineer, build the Thames Tunnel – the first tunnel to be built under a navigable river. In 1833, Brunel became Chief Engineer for Great Western Railway and built a network of tunnels, viaducts and bridges on the route between London and Bristol.

SIR ROBERT PEEL
1788–1850

Serving twice as British Prime Minister, Robert Peel brought in many reforms that changed Britain for the better. As Home Secretary he helped promote Catholic Emancipation, while as Prime Minister he improved conditions for the working classes – especially those working in mines and factories. Peel is also seen as the father of modern British policing with his introduction of a professional and full-time police force for London – a reformed style of policing that quickly spread across the country (*see p53*).

SARAH FORBES BONETTA
1843–80

Born into the royal family of the West African Yoruba people, Aina (her name at birth) was captured during a slave-hunt war in which her parents were killed. At just five years old, she was taken as a slave by the king of Dahomey, in modern-day Benin. A British Navy captain – sent as an emissary to Dahomey – was given the girl as a suitable gift for Queen Victoria. Aina was baptised and given an English name, Forbes for the captain and Bonetta after his ship. Victoria was charmed by the young girl and became her protector, funding her education. Aina – now named Sarah – was a regular visitor to Windsor Castle and impressed the court with her academic abilities. At 19 she married a Yoruba businessman and philanthropist; they returned to Africa and raised a family. Sarah kept in touch with the queen and was given permission to name her first daughter Victoria – with the monarch standing as godmother. After Sarah died from tuberculosis, aged 37, Victoria continued to provide an annuity for the child.



ADA LOVELACE
1815–52

Daughter of the poet Lord Byron and Annabella Milbanke, Ada Lovelace is widely considered the world's first computer programmer. Annabella, herself a highly educated woman, promoted her daughter's interest in logic and mathematics. When she was just 17, Ada met mathematician and inventor Charles Babbage and became fascinated with his Analytical Engine – an automatic mechanical digital computer. She would later translate an article about the Analytical Engine by Italian engineer Luigi Federico Menabrea, adding her own notes (three times longer than the original text) which contain what is considered to be the first computer program or algorithm, and demonstrating her awareness of the machine's future potential. There is still debate about how much Ada contributed to Babbage's work and who wrote about what first, but she is remembered for her vision in an era of great restrictions for women.

EMILY BRONTË
1818–48

One of the talented Brontë siblings, Emily lived most of her life on the remote Yorkshire Moors with her family. Her only published novel – the dark and tragic *Wuthering Heights* – is considered a classic of English literature. Along with sisters Charlotte and Anne, Emily was first published under a pseudonym in a book of poems. She died in 1848 of tuberculosis, less than three months after her brother Branwell.

GETTY IMAGES X7, ALAMY X1

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

It didn't pay to be on the wrong side of the law in Victorian England

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

If you were to pick up a copy of *The Illustrated Police News* – one of Victorian Britain's first tabloid newspapers, which reported murders and hangings in full, salacious detail – you would likely feel that the 19th century was a veritable bloodbath of death and danger. But how worried *were* Victorians about their personal safety?

"Looking at crime statistics for the Victorian period can only tell you so much," says Sarah Richardson, professor of history at the University of Warwick, adding that a lot of it actually came down to perceptions of crime at the time.

"The Victorians were very worried and preoccupied with particular groups of criminals," she explains. "The concept of juvenile crime, for example, was almost invented in this period, and there were real concerns about what to do with child criminals. In the early part of the 19th century, the only thing that could be done was to transport them to Australia – even children as young as ten or 12 – or lock them up in adult prisons. But from the late 1850s, you start to see things like reform schools and borstals being introduced."

There was also a belief among the middle classes that child criminals could be divided into two categories: the perishing classes – who were born into poverty and had no choice but to steal and commit crimes – and the dangerous classes. These children were, according to this mindset, essentially born evil.

SYSTEMS OF PUNISHMENT

Until the early 19th century, Britain operated under the Bloody Code, a system that listed more than 200 offences as punishable by death – from murder and arson to pickpocketing and even cutting down hop-vines. By the mid-19th century, however, moves were being made to remove criminals from society rather than kill them, and imprisonment became the primary form of punishment.

Philosopher Jeremy Bentham's idea that placing people in solitary confinement where they could reflect upon their crimes was initially a popular one, and prisoners would carry out forms of hard labour – breaking rocks or picking rope – as part of their punishment. But by the end of the period, prisoner aid societies were being set up to educate and rehabilitate inmates, and in 1886 the Probation of First Time Offenders Act was passed. This saw missionaries and magistrates develop a system of releasing offenders on the condition that they kept in touch with, and accepted guidance from, the missionaries.

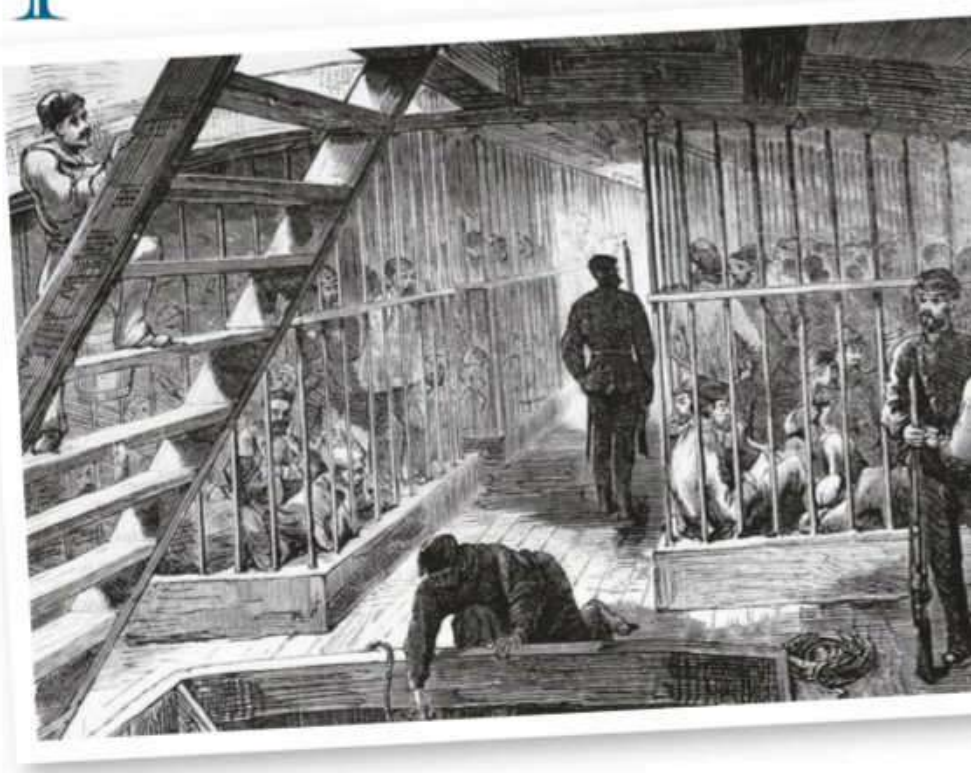
"Transportation to Australia or other British colonies was another common form of punishment in the early 19th century," says Richardson, "but by the 1850s, transportation had fallen out of favour – mainly because of the costs involved, but also because of resistance from the colonies who were receiving Britain's criminal population."

Transportation, although perhaps a welcome reprieve from the death sentence for most criminals, carried its own dangers and hardships. "It was, in many ways, a life sentence," comments Richardson. "Although you might have been sentenced to seven years transportation, it was unlikely that you would ever return home or see your family and friends again."

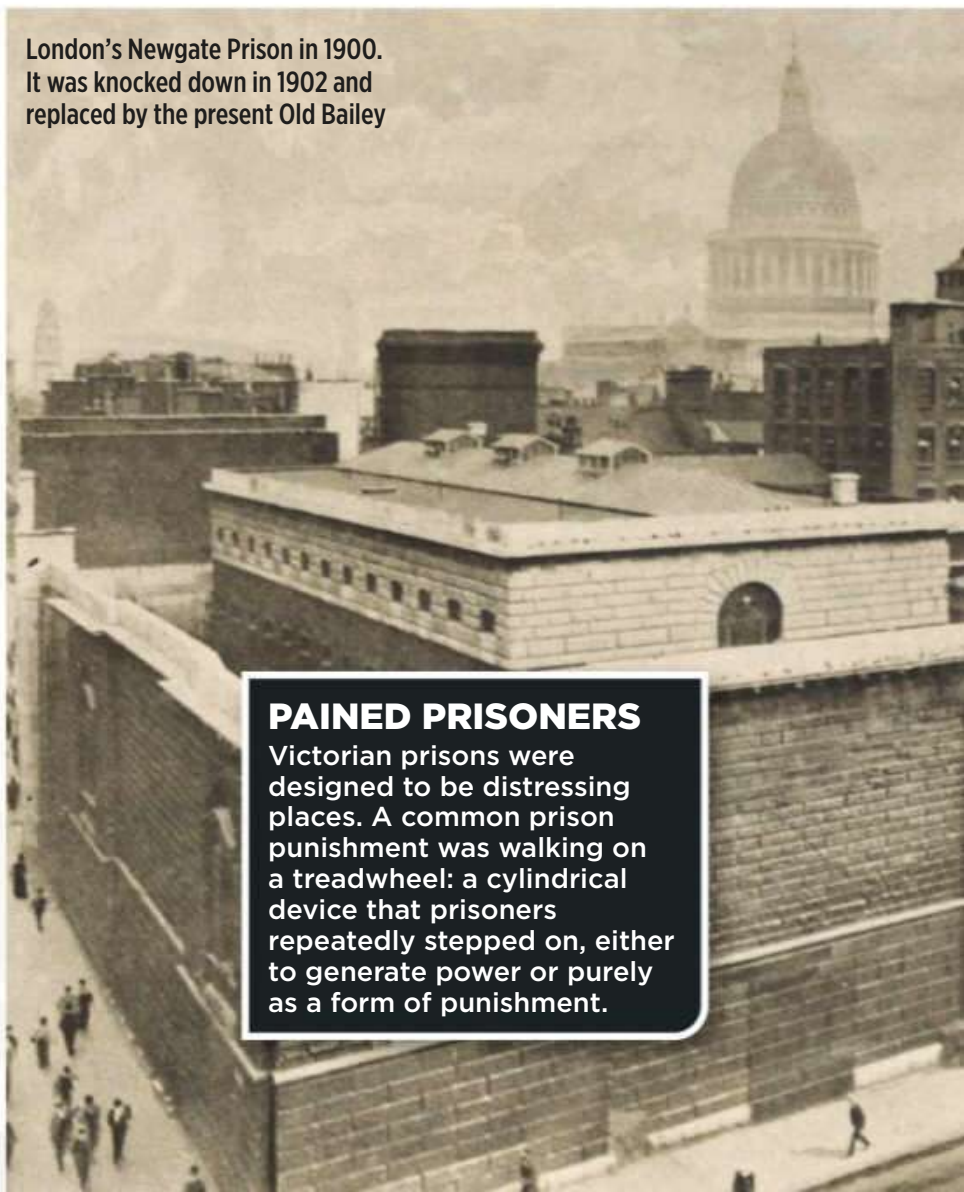
Around 162,000 convicts were sent to Australia between 1787 and 1868, some 80 per cent of whom had been found guilty of theft and around one in seven of which were women. Before making the journey, prisoners were held in prison or on floating prison-ships, known as hulks, while they waited for other prisoners to join them. The journey to Australia itself took months, and conditions onboard were cramped, with many convicts chained up in leg irons. Upon their arrival, prisoners who had survived the journey were set to work, with many building roads or breaking rocks.

Well-behaved prisoners could earn a ticket-of-leave for good behaviour and secure themselves an early release. But even serving a full sentence and receiving a certificate of freedom didn't necessarily mean going home, for few could afford a ticket for the return journey. Most remained in Australia with the country's free settlers, with some even rising to prominent positions in Australian society. Pickpocket George Barrington became superintendent of convicts in Parramatta, for instance, while sheep-thief Daniel Connor was known as one of Perth's largest landowners by the 1890s.

HORSING AROUND
The Bow Street Runners were the UK's first professional police force. The mounted division of the agency – the Bow Street Horse Patrol – was created to help tackle highway robberies. The entire force was later superseded by the Metropolitan Police.



Prisoners were commonly caged or restrained during their transportation to Australia, as this c1890 etching shows



London's Newgate Prison in 1900. It was knocked down in 1902 and replaced by the present Old Bailey

PAINED PRISONERS
Victorian prisons were designed to be distressing places. A common prison punishment was walking on a treadwheel: a cylindrical device that prisoners repeatedly stepped on, either to generate power or purely as a form of punishment.

GETTY IMAGES X3, BBC/MODERN TELEVISION/JAMES JONES X1, ITV X1

Members of the Metropolitan Police outside their station in the late Victorian era, c1890

BOBBIES ON THE BEAT

London's new police force divided opinion

In 1829, Conservative Home Secretary (and later prime minister) Sir Robert Peel established the Metropolitan Police in London, England's first modern police force. Previously, attempts to keep law and order were undertaken by so-called thief catchers or watchmen, but Peel's new, uniformed agency was designed as a permanent body of professional law-enforcers, initially comprising 895 constables, 88 sergeants, 20 inspectors and eight superintendents.

"The Metropolitan Police was designed to bring a more professional air to policing," says Richardson. "Previously, law enforcers had been seen as being little better than the criminals they were policing – or at least part of the same class. But although the new police force was welcomed by the middle classes, they were generally viewed with suspicion by people in working-class communities, who felt a sense of over-surveillance and believed they were being punished disproportionately."

GET HOOKED

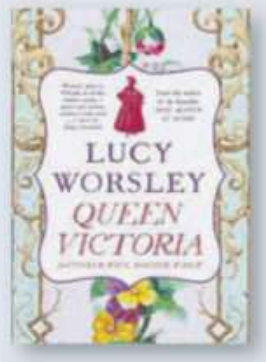
If we've whetted your appetite for all things Victorian, why not explore the topic further with our pick of books, films and podcasts

BOOKS

The Political Worlds of Women: Gender and Political Culture in Nineteenth-Century Britain

By Prof Sarah Richardson (Routledge, 2013)

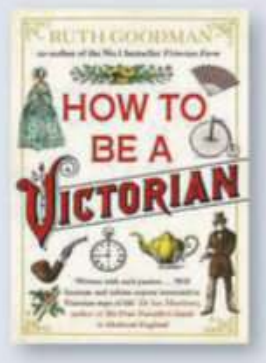
Sarah Richardson examines female engagement in both traditional and unconventional political arenas, including female sociability, salons, child-rearing and education, health, consumption, religious reform and nationalism.



Queen Victoria: Daughter, Wife, Mother, Widow

By Lucy Worsley (Hodder & Stoughton, 2018)

Who was Queen Victoria? A little old lady, potato-like in appearance, dressed in everlasting black? Or a passionate young princess, a romantic heroine with a love of dancing? Lucy Worsley examines 24 days of the queen's life, through diaries, letters and more.



How to be a Victorian: A Dawn-to-Dusk Guide to Victorian Life

By Ruth Goodman (Liveright, 2020)

Drawing on her own adventures living in re-created Victorian conditions, Goodman serves as a guide to 19th-century life – from waking up to the rapping of a "knocker-upper man" on the window pane to lacing into a corset. Discover the weird and wonderful intricacies of Victorian life.

ONLINE AND AUDIO

▶ **Did the Victorians Ruin the World?** *(BBC Sounds):* Kat and Helen Arney present revisionist revelations about our Victorian forebears. Listen at *bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b08llqzz*

History Extra

▶ **For podcasts, features, quizzes, interviews and more on the Victorians, visit the Victorian hub on our website: *historyextra.com/period/victorian***

WATCH

Victoria

(ITV, now streaming on Amazon Prime and BritBox UK)

The life and reign of Queen Victoria is explored in this sumptuous three-season historical drama – from her ascension to the throne, to courtship and marriage to Albert.

New Hidden Killers of the Victorian Home

(BBC iPlayer)

Suzannah Lipscomb looks at the killer products and domestic horrors that surrounded the Victorians – from the food they ate to the clothes they wore.

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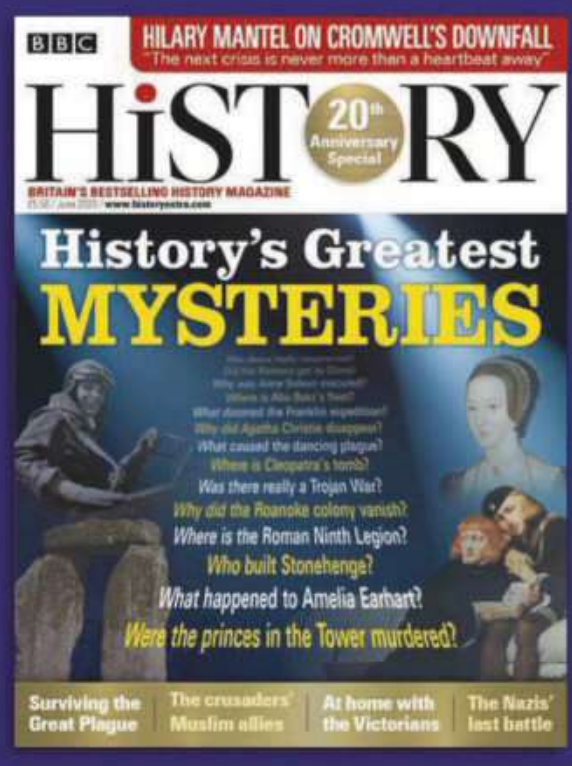
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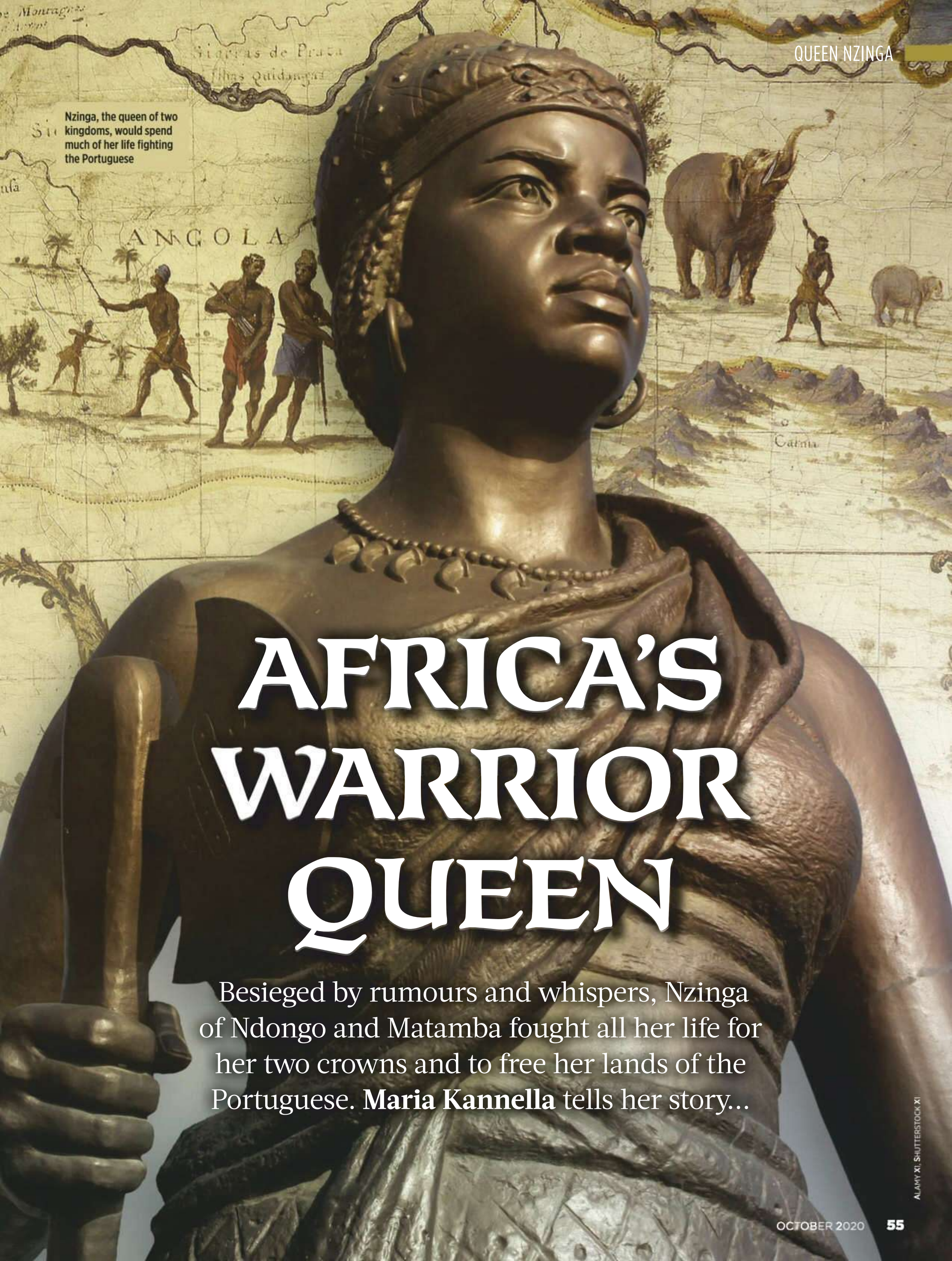


Nzinga, the queen of two kingdoms, would spend much of her life fighting the Portuguese

AFRICA'S WARRIOR QUEEN

Besieged by rumours and whispers, Nzinga of Ndongo and Matamba fought all her life for her two crowns and to free her lands of the Portuguese. **Maria Kannella** tells her story...

ALAMY X1, SHUTTERSTOCK X1

Taking a deep breath, the future Queen Nzinga approached the Portuguese governor's office. She had come here on a crucial mission to represent her people, the Mbundu, and to stop the Iberian colonisers from encroaching any further on their territory. Adjusting her posture, she pulled back the heavy curtain, and stepped inside. Sitting in the centre of the room was João Correia de Sousa, peering curiously at the African princess from his plush armchair. Nzinga glanced round, looking for her own seat. There was none only a humble reed mat on the floor.

Nzinga would suffer no such indignation. She whipped around and fixed her servant with a steely look, cocking her head slightly. Perhaps the only person in the room to understand Nzinga's meaning, he scrabbled onto all fours whereupon his mistress gingerly seated herself upon his back. Correia de Sousa raised an eyebrow, but he was impressed by Nzinga's defiance. Negotiations between the two parties began in earnest, and most importantly, on an equal footing.

ROYAL BLOOD

Someone of Nzinga's illustrious pedigree was perhaps always destined for greatness. Born in the early 1580s to King Ngola Mbandi Kiluanji of Ndongo (a territory in modern day Angola), it's said Nzinga arrived in the world with her umbilical cord wrapped around her neck. In the Mbundu culture, this was a sign that the infant princess would grow up to be a proud and powerful woman.

Ngola Mbandi Kiluanji himself was a charismatic king, loved by his people. But he reigned at a time when the Portuguese were rapaciously scouring Africa for raw materials and slaves to trade, and his kingdom was high on their hit list. The king wanted his children to comprehend the situation they would one day inherit, so he encouraged Nzinga and her brother, Ngola Mbandi, to join him in guerrilla raids against the Portuguese colonisers (who were based in Luanda). Nzinga's relationship with the colonisers was complex, however when she wasn't fighting them, she was a model student of Portuguese missionaries and merchants, learning their language with great eloquence.

Historians know little else of Nzinga's upbringing, as the future queen makes her first proper appearance on the record in the year 1622. Her father had died in 1617, and Nzinga's brother Ngola Mbandi (who some claim deposed his father) was now king. He was neither charismatic like his father, nor intelligent like Nzinga, and it's suggested that he resented his younger sister. Nevertheless, he needed her for the astute mind he himself did not possess. Thus, in 1622, Ngola Mbandi sent Nzinga to Luanda to form a settlement with the Portuguese governor, João Correia de Sousa.

WORLDS COLLIDE

By all accounts, Nzinga's famous meeting was a success. The Portuguese recognised Ndongo's sovereignty and promised to withdraw their troops from the region, while Ndongo allowed Portugal to trade there. Finding the colony to her liking, Nzinga decided to linger in Luanda, attempting to get a better deal for her people. She even converted to Christianity to strengthen her case, and de Sousa himself acted as her godfather. In 1624, however, she was called back to Ndongo, as her reigning brother had died under mysterious circumstances. Some say Nzinga had him murdered, as Ngola Mbandi is believed to have ordered the execution of her only son, fearing a potential threat to his throne. Others say he took his own life due to the stress of resisting the Portuguese.

Nzinga found herself in a tricky position one that would have thwarted less capable leaders. She was a woman in a man's world, and the world of Mbundu leadership was a male dominated one indeed. Unlike Western royalty, the next ruler would be selected by a council of village noblemen, and the candidate with the largest following and smartest manoeuvring usually won. A female ruler seemed unthinkable. Yet what Nzinga lacked in followers, she more than made up for in political acumen. With a small band of electors, she managed to emerge victorious.

But queenship was never going to be easy, and whispers from within her kingdom implied she was far from popular. To add insult to injury, her old friends the Portuguese didn't recognise her rule either, assuming that Nzinga had been involved in Ngola Mbandi's suspicious death.

ABOVE: **Nzinga, Queen of Ndongo, was driven out of her kingdom by the Portuguese – only to find herself a new kingdom in the form of Matamba**

TOP: **Portuguese sailors prostrate themselves in front of the king of Kongo, which would later ally itself to Nzinga's cause**

THE NEW KINGDOM

Not to be deterred, Nzinga sought support from outside the realm. She found unlikely allies in the Imbangala, a group of spear wielding warriors. This uneasy alliance continued for a few years, but Nzinga struggled to control the kingdom. Eventually driven out by the Portuguese and their new Mbundu puppet ruler, Ngola a Hari, Nzinga fled eastwards in 1629. With

QUEEN OF TWO KINGDOMS The life of Nzinga of Ndongo and Matamba

1617

After decades of holding back Portuguese colonisers, Ngola Mbandi Kiluanji, King of Ndongo, dies. His son, Ngola Mbandi, ascends the throne.

1622

Ngola Mbandi sends Nzinga to Luanda to negotiate with Portuguese governor João Correia de Sousa and get him to withdraw his troops.

1624

After staying at the Portuguese colony in Luanda for two years, Nzinga – now a Christian – is recalled to Ndongo following the death of her brother, the king.

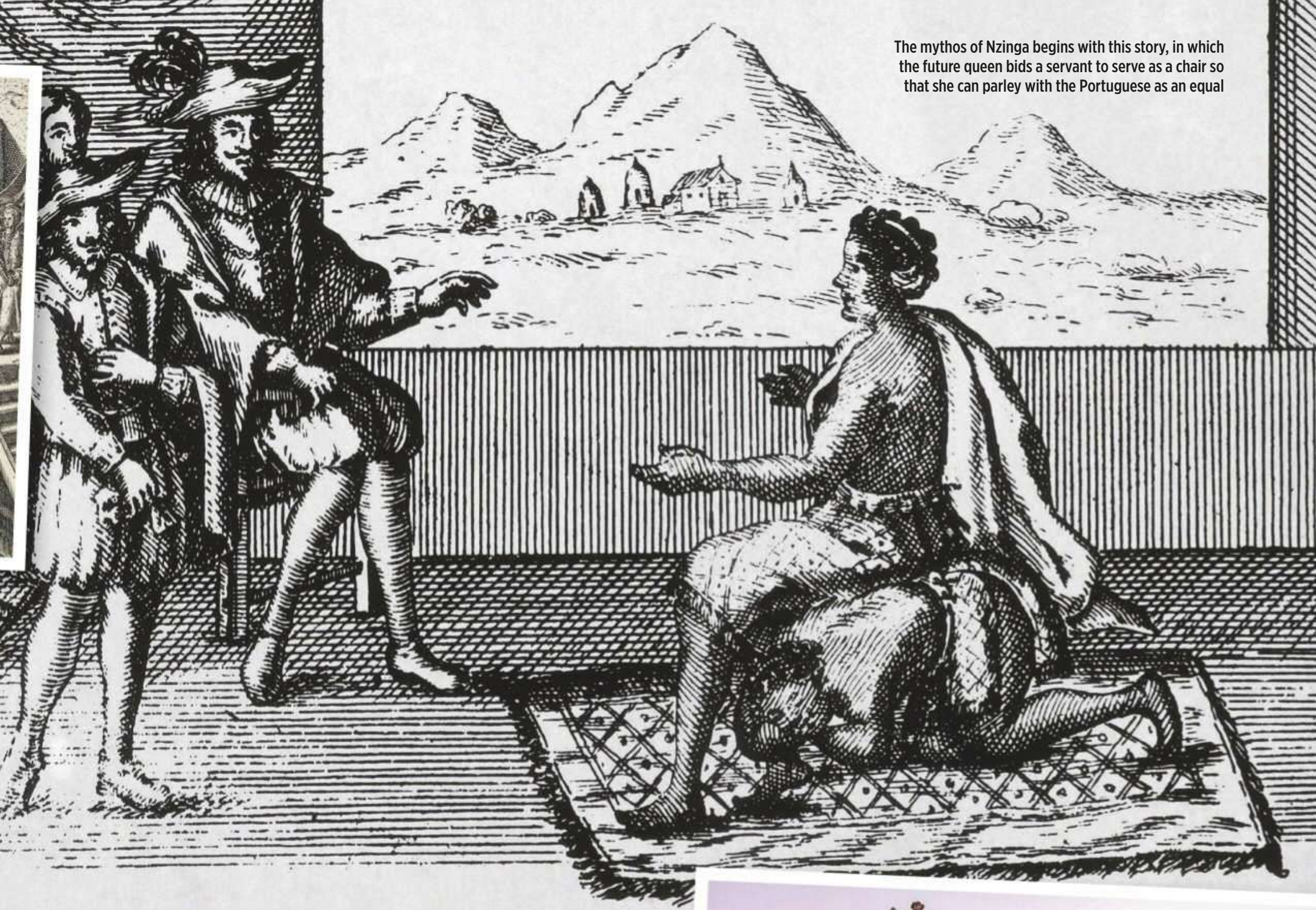
1629

Now Queen of Ndongo, Nzinga is forced to flee the kingdom after the Portuguese install a puppet ruler, Ngola a Hari, in her place.

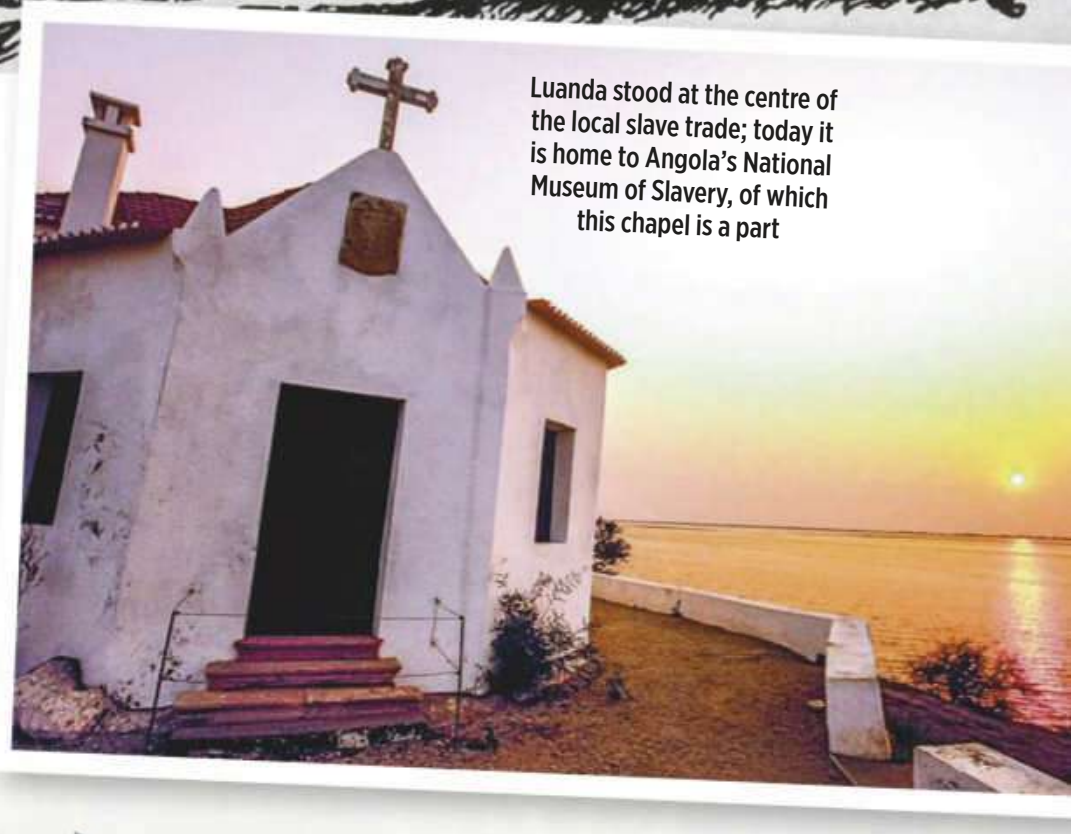
1630

After arriving in the Mbundu stronghold of Matamba, Nzinga seizes leadership of the kingdom, rallying its people to her.

ALAMY X1, GETTY IMAGES X3



The mythos of Nzinga begins with this story, in which the future queen bids a servant to serve as a chair so that she can parley with the Portuguese as an equal



Luanda stood at the centre of the local slave trade; today it is home to Angola's National Museum of Slavery, of which this chapel is a part

"Her old friends the Portuguese assumed that Nzinga was involved in Ngola Mbandi's suspicious death"

a handful of loyal supporters, Nzinga traipsed over the hills outside Luanda to an old Mbundu stronghold the kingdom of Matamba.

When they arrived in 1630, the place was a mess. The hilly kingdom had been ravaged by successive Portuguese raids, and the Imbangala had combed through the carnage, too. Worse still, there was no real leadership a power vacuum had arisen after Ngola Mbandi's untimely demise. Sniffing out an opportunity, Nzinga conquered Matamba, rallying its people around her.

Located at the gateway to central Africa, Matamba occupied a unique strategic position. The land was suitable for growing cotton, coffee, fruits,

1630s

Nzinga works hard to improve the fortunes of Matamba, cutting off the Portuguese from the central African slave trade and creating a well-organised army.

1641

After the Dutch take Luanda from the Portuguese, they join forces with Nzinga to take back the kingdom of Ndongo.

1647

A combined force of fighters from Kongo, Ndongo and a Dutch contingent of soldiers win a decisive victory against the Portuguese at the Battle of Kombi.

1656

After more than a decade of conflict, a settlement is agreed, and a boundary drawn between Portuguese Angola and the Kingdom of Matamba.

1663

Queen Nzinga dies peacefully. The last years of her reign had seen Matamba flourish into a powerful African trading nation.

ABOVE: **Nzinga's actions served to cut Portugal off from the slave trade**

RIGHT: **Queen Nzinga with her military entourage from the Kingdom of Matamba**

and many other items that fetched a pretty penny in this bold new world of international capitalism.

But perhaps Matamba's most precious resource was its unparalleled access to the central African slave market. Once she had established herself, Nzinga blocked off the slave trade to the Portuguese, diverting enslaved people into Matamba itself. This act ensured Nzinga held the monopoly over slavery in the entire region, and it is plausible that she materially benefitted from the slave trade; she may have even collaborated with Portuguese slavers when she ruled in Ndongo.

RULER IN EXILE

Her brief alliance with the Imbangala had also taught Nzinga the importance of having a well-organised army, which Matamba sorely lacked. That became Nzinga's next task. She may have harboured runaway slaves and Portuguese-trained African soldiers, but she was sure to enlist them in the military. And this was no regular army: Nzinga instituted an ancient Imbangala system called Kilombo, where children were separated from their families in infancy and raised by the militia. If such a system worked for the Spartans, Nzinga could easily make it work for her.

As for her foreign policy, Nzinga always kept an eye on Ndongo affairs, in the hope that she would one day regain the loyalty of her people. The kingdom was now under the thumb of proxy ruler Ngola a Hari (known as Felipe I De Sousa once he had been baptised). He had never liked Nzinga, and had campaigned against her as she rose to the throne. Now it was Nzinga's time to get revenge. Her spies spread rumours within Ndongo, stirring up petty revolts wherever they went; the kingdom seemed ripe for the taking.

"Kombi in 1647 was just one of many occasions Nzinga led her army into the fray personally"

Within the decade, Nzinga was ready to march back to Ndongo to fight the Portuguese. As luck would have it, a powerful new ally had exploded onto the scene. In 1641, a Dutch armada had captured Luanda from the Portuguese. Reasoning that her enemy's enemy would be her friend, Nzinga's negotiating skills saw the two form a fruitful partnership, and together they managed to recapture Ndongo. The pairing won some key battles, notably at Kombi in 1647 – just one of many occasions Nzinga led her army into the fray personally.

But Nzinga wouldn't sit on her old throne for long. The Portuguese weren't going to go down without a fight, and they eventually called in reinforcements from Brazil to rout their foes. Cutting their losses, the Dutch abandoned Nzinga in 1648, leaving her to fight her European

ALAMY X3, GETTY IMAGES X2

The Portuguese were based in Luanda, and it was here that Nzinga pulled her servant-as-a-chair stunt; it's now the capital city of Angola

adversaries alone. Against the odds, Nzinga continued her resistance - but in her advancing age, she realised that Ndongo was rapidly slipping from her grasp.

A few more years of small-scale conflict led to nothing but deceit, destruction and death. Battle benefitted no one – not the Portuguese, not the Mbundu, and certainly not Nzinga. Choosing to focus her remaining energy on Matamba, Nzinga negotiated a settlement in 1656, formally drawing the boundary between Portuguese Angola and the Kingdom (or Queendom) of Matamba.

MATAMBA'S MAKEOVER

Matamba was a vastly different place compared to how it had been 30 years earlier. Nzinga had introduced stability, transforming it from an African backwater to a trading nation making profitable deals with the Portuguese. Nzinga's carefully calculated power play all those years ago had made a lasting impression on the colonists, who dealt with Matamba as an equal partner. By the time of Nzinga's death (peacefully, in her bed), in 1663, Matamba had become a major player in southwest Africa. Its formidable queen had moulded it in her own image rich, disciplined, and powerful.

It's said that well behaved women seldom make history, but even rule breakers like Nzinga have struggled to keep their place in the history books. European chroniclers conveniently ignored the African ruler who had consistently beaten and humiliated them, though Nzinga did make it into a few salacious 'biographies', which described what allegedly went on in the queen's private life in juicy detail. For a long time, she was known only as the insufferable woman who pulled the infamous chair stunt, or the insatiable queen who kept a harem of men.

But as Angola was freeing itself from the Portuguese yoke in the 1970s, the country's historians pieced together a different picture of Nzinga. Much of what we know about her today is thanks to the tireless work of African scholars, work that hasn't gone unnoticed – today, Nzinga is remembered as the 'Mother of Angola'.

The woman who fought colonialism with her every breath has become a symbol of the nation, and is honoured with her own statue in central Luanda. At last, the mighty queen of Ndongo and Matamba is able to survey the one treasure she never quite captured – Angola's capital city.

THE FIGHT IS ON

Nzinga wasn't the only African Queen to take up arms

AMANIRENAS

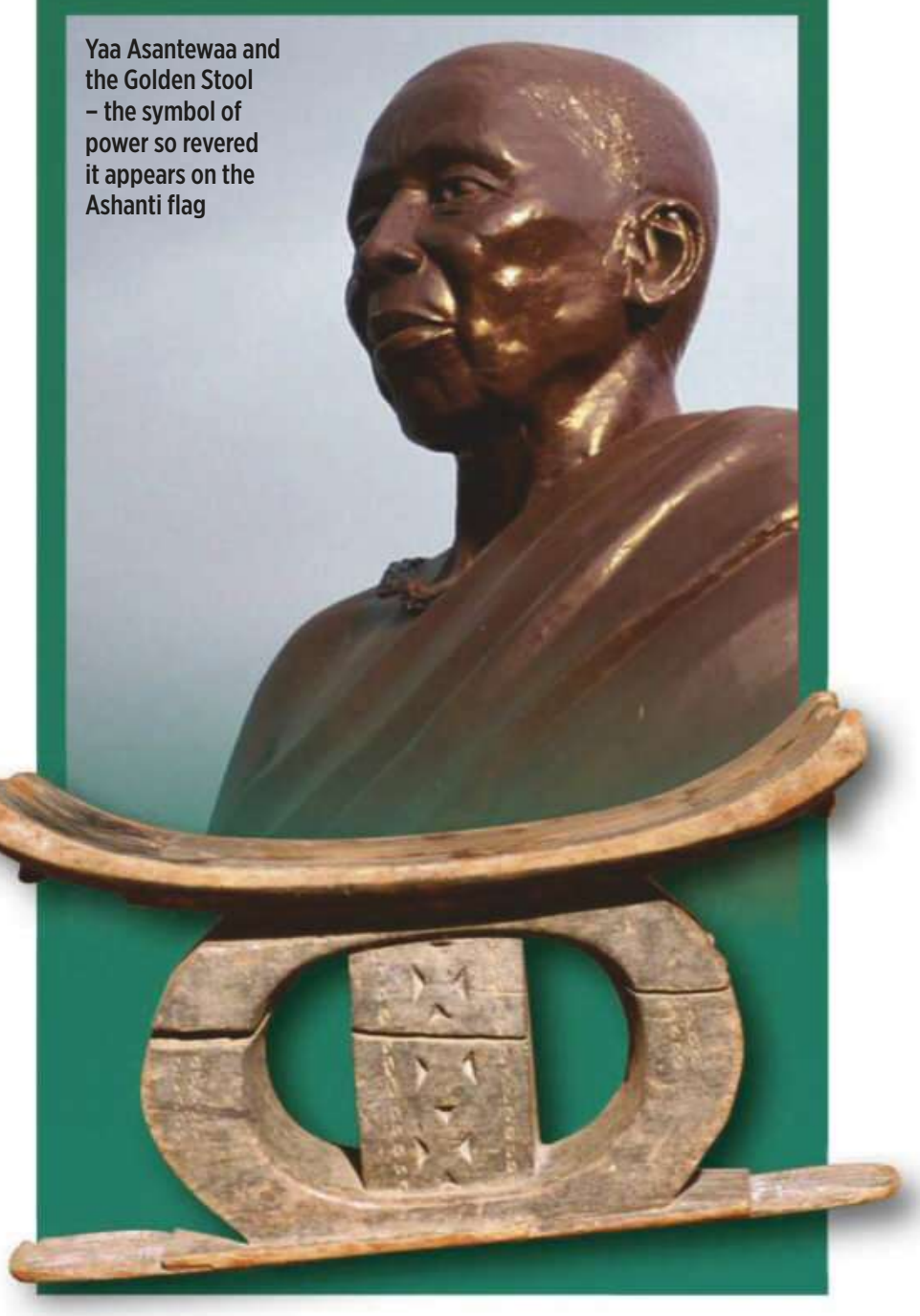
Kandake (Latinised as Candace) was the term for a queen of Kush, in present-day Sudan. The best-documented Kandake was Amanirenas, who ruled from 40 BC to 10 BC. She led the Kushites in a war against Roman invaders, and the Greek historian Strabo records her burying a bronze version of Augustus' severed head as a gesture of victory.

AMINA OF ZAZZAU

Amina of Zazzau (northern Nigeria) received many offers of marriage, but she wasn't interested. She only wanted one thing – glory for Zazzau. As soon as she ascended the throne in 1576, Amina demanded that her soldiers "resharpen their weapons", and with an army of 20,000, conquered huge swathes of territory. She reigned for 34 years.

YAA ASANTEWAA

▼ When British colonisers came (guns blazing) into the Ashanti kingdom (modern-day Ghana) in 1900, Queen Yaa Asantewaa refused to yield. The British demanded the Golden Stool, a symbol of power, so she led thousands of warriors in a rebellion against them. She was captured and exiled, and Ashanti became a British colony in 1902.



Yaa Asantewaa and the Golden Stool – the symbol of power so revered it appears on the Ashanti flag

THE 11 MOST SIGNIFICANT BATTLES OF THE SECOND ORLD AR

Professor Evan Mawdsley explores the WWII battles that had the most impact upon later military and political events, and indeed the outcome of the war itself

A 'battle' is defined in this piece as an event that occurred in a particular place and over a relatively short time-span; the shortest of these battles lasted 90 minutes, the longest three months. Indeed, the Battle of the Atlantic was extremely significant, but it was not a battle: instead, it was a six-year series of battles, none of which was – in itself – decisive. The same is true of the five-year Allied bomber offensive.

Looking at the war in terms of 'battles' tends to increase the apparent importance of the Soviets; they fought more battles, and destroyed most of the German army. For me, the European war was inherently more significant in military and strategic terms than the Asia-Pacific war (this was also the view of the British, American and Soviet war leaders).

Had Hitler knocked Britain or the USSR out of the war he would have made the Third Reich a real 'world power', and German-dominated Europe would have been unassailable. In contrast Japan, at that time a second-rate regional power, could not have been a global military threat on its own. Furthermore, 'most significant' is not the same as 'most decisive', 'biggest', 'greatest', 'bloodiest', 'most skillful' or 'most successful'. Instead, 'significant' means that the battle had a major effect on later military and political events, if not the final outcome of the war. If I had been able to choose 15 significant battles, I might have added Wavell's first Libyan offensive (December 1940), the battle of Smolensk (1941), the invasion of Sicily (1943), the air-land-sea battle of the Mariana Islands (1944) and the Vistula-Oder Operation (1945).

MAIN: **The French city of Rouen is enveloped by smoke and fire as the Germans invade in 1940**

INSET: **Refugees flee Paris ahead of the Nazi occupation**

1 FRANCE

MAY 1940

The rapid and unexpected conquest of the Low Countries and northern France in four weeks was the supreme example of German mastery of mobile warfare. It was also WWII's most significant battle.

The back of the French army was broken. Hitler would gain control over western Europe (and Fascist Italy entered the war). Everything else in 1940–45 was a consequence of this victory. The German blunder of allowing the British Expeditionary Force to escape through Dunkirk was also significant; Britain would remain a threat, and Hitler's victory was incomplete. Stalin's hope for a long, mutually destructive war between the capitalist powers was undone; the USSR itself was now threatened.

"Stalin's hope for a long, mutually destructive war between the capitalist powers was undone"

2 BATTLE OF BRITAIN

AUGUST–SEPTEMBER 1940

As the Luftwaffe mounted mass daytime raids against RAF bases and later London, hoping to gain air superiority and force Britain to make peace, preparations for invasion began. But Britain possessed a radar-controlled air defence system and a powerful Royal Navy. Public morale did not crack, high German losses forced a change in mid-September to sporadic and less effective night bombing, and the arrival of autumn weather made invasion impractical.

The battle demonstrated to Germany (and the US) that Britain could not be easily knocked out of the war. Hitler turned his attention to the USSR, and the Americans sent help to Britain.

Spitfires patrol over the British coastline during the Battle of Britain

GETTY IMAGES X4

3 OPERATION 'BARBAROSSA'

JUNE–JULY 1941

Hitler's surprise attack on the USSR was the most devastating victory of the whole war; as a battle it covered the largest area. The Wehrmacht's first objective was achieved: the rapid destruction the Red Army in the western Soviet Union.

'Barbarossa' did not bring about the larger goal of overthrowing the Soviet system and occupying all of its territories. Nevertheless, the catastrophe eventually forced the defenders to fall back 600 miles, to the outskirts of Leningrad and Moscow. The Red Army had to be rebuilt; it would not drive the occupiers out of the USSR until the autumn of 1944.

The autumn mud slowed the German advance into the USSR at a critical moment

Soviet women and children take livestock to the market in Nazi-occupied countryside

4 MOSCOW

DECEMBER 1941

The successful Red Army surprise counter-offensive in front of Moscow, which began on 5 December, was the second most significant battle of the entire war.

The Soviets would have bad defeats later, and the Germans would suffer much greater losses at Stalingrad in 1942–43. But the setback at Moscow meant that the Blitzkrieg strategy of Hitler and his generals had failed; the USSR would not be knocked out of the war in just a few months.

The northern and central parts of the Soviet front now held firm – and the Third Reich could not win a war of attrition.

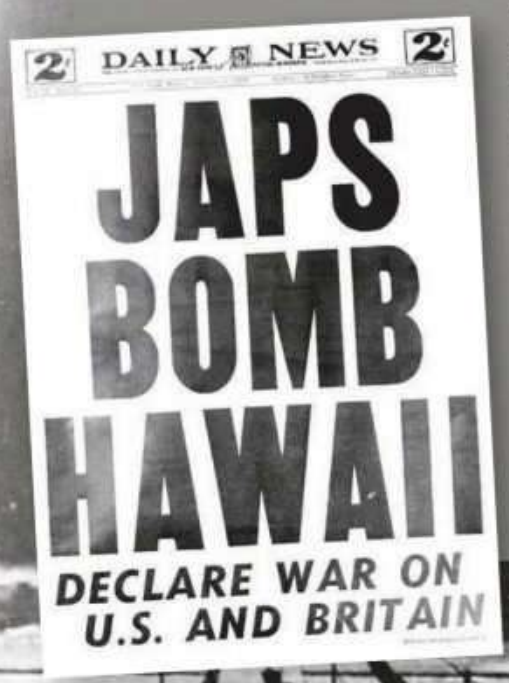
5 PEARL HARBOR

7 DECEMBER 1941

The fighting lasted only 90 minutes and was very one-sided, but Pearl Harbor was undoubtedly a major battle – six aircraft carriers with more than 400 Japanese planes attacked America's main naval base.

Crippling the enemy battleship fleet allowed Japan to overrun southeast Asia without interference. But the 'Day of Infamy' threw a cautious American public wholeheartedly behind war with Japan and Germany – although early preoccupation with Pacific defence delayed the sending of American forces to Europe.

Fierce anti-Japanese sentiment also led to a readiness to use firebombing and nuclear weapons three years later.



American destroyer USS *Shaw* explodes after being hit at Pearl Harbor

6 MIDWAY

JUNE 1942

The Japanese Fleet put to sea to threaten Midway Island (northwest of Hawaii), hoping to lure the Americans to destruction. In reality it was the Japanese who were ambushed, losing four of their best carriers.

Of all the battles listed here, this one really could have gone either way, although the outcome was not entirely 'miraculous'. The Midway victory allowed the Americans to take the strategic initiative in the South Pacific. It would be a year and a half before an American offensive directly across the Central Pacific began, but the Japanese had not had time to fortify their island defence line.

An artist's impression of the Battle of Midway, which was fought six months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor

"Of all the battles listed here, Midway is one that really could have gone either way"

7 OPERATION TORCH

NOVEMBER 1942

The Allied landings in Morocco and Algeria were an easy battle: Vichy French troops were the original opponent, and they quickly changed sides. But Operation Torch was the first successful strategic offensive, and saw American troops cross the Atlantic for the first time.

Victory in Tunisia, the invasion of Sicily and the Italian surrender followed. But Torch and the Mediterranean strategy, urged by the British and accepted by Roosevelt, meant ultimately that there would be no cross-Channel landing in 1943. The Second Battle of Alamein, fought later that November, was much bloodier and a decisive British victory, but Torch had a deeper significance.

German convoys in Tunis, the city that would become the last Axis base in Africa – it fell in May 1943

GETTY IMAGES X6

8 STALINGRAD

NOVEMBER 1942 TO JANUARY 1943

The three-month battle is often seen to be the war's turning point: after Stalingrad, the Wehrmacht would make no further advances into the USSR. The mid-November 1942 mobile operation to cut off the city demonstrated for the first time the skill of the rebuilt Red Army.

The capitulation of the Sixth Army in the Stalingrad pocket on 31 January was the first major German surrender. Both the German leadership and the population of occupied Europe realised the significance of what had happened: the Third Reich was now on the defensive.

A Soviet mortar crew runs to take up a new firing position during the Battle of Stalingrad

"The capitulation of the Sixth Army in the Stalingrad pocket was the first major German surrender"

9 BRIANSK-OREL & BELGOROD-KHARKOV

JULY-AUGUST 1943

The Battle of Kursk (July 1943) is commonly regarded as one of the three great Soviet victories of WWII, and the first achieved in the summer – unlike Moscow and Stalingrad. Hitler's offensive against the Kursk salient (Operation Citadel) was indeed halted, but it had only had limited objectives, and the Soviets suffered higher losses. More significant were the counter-offensives that followed Citadel: north of Kursk (Briansk/Orel, Operation Kutuzov) and south of it (Belgorod/Kharkov, Operation Polkovodets Rumiantsev).

The Red Army took and held the initiative along the whole southern front. Its advance to the Dnepr River and across western Ukraine to the pre-war border would then continue without significant pause until February 1944.

Soviet soldiers advance past a burning T-34 medium tank during the Battle of Kursk

German soldiers retreat across the last bridge over the Dnepr River – the other routes across having been blown up by their own engineers

GETTY IMAGES X6

10 NORMANDY

JUNE–JULY 1944

To many people in Britain, D-Day (6 June 1944) and the following six weeks of fighting in Normandy is the most obvious 'significant battle', since it allowed the rapid liberation of western Europe.

The technical complexities of putting thousands of largely untested Allied troops across the Channel and supplying them there were huge; the Germans thought they had a good chance to repel any invasion.

After D-Day, Hitler chose to mount a stubborn defence of the Normandy region, and when the main American breakout came, in late July, the burned-out defending forces had no option but to beat a rapid retreat to the German border.

MAIN: **US soldiers wade ashore after reaching Omaha Beach**

RIGHT: **British soldiers move inland after landing at Normandy**

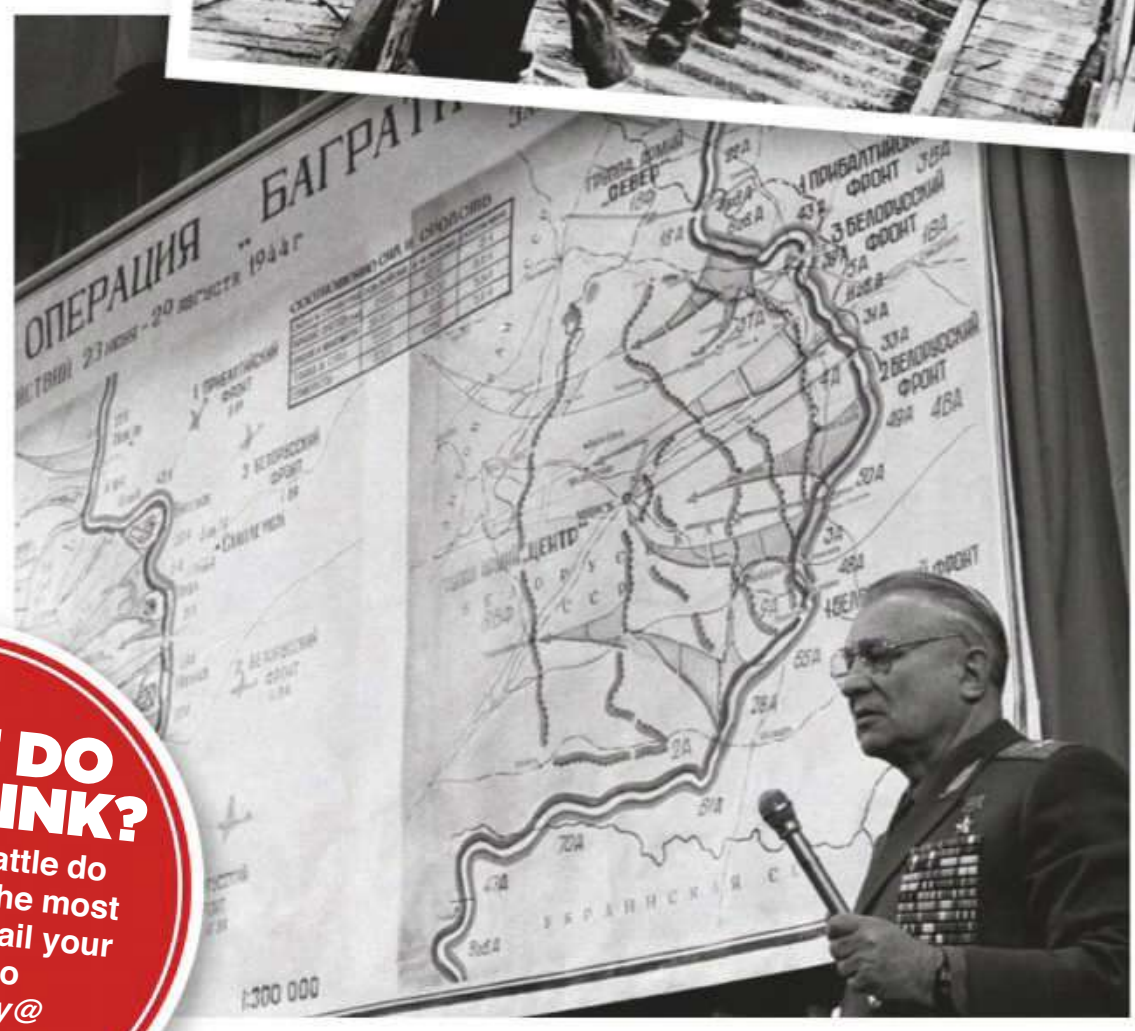
11 OPERATION BAGRATION

JUNE–JULY 1944

The Soviet offensive in Belorussia (now Belarus), three weeks after D-Day, was bigger than the battle of Normandy.

Surprised by the location of the attack, the Germans were overwhelmed by the pace and uninterrupted nature of the advance – within six weeks an entire army group had been destroyed, most of Soviet territory had been liberated, and spearhead units had advanced as far as central Poland. The pressure of Bagration aided the British-American advance from Normandy.

The greater significance of the offensive (coupled with the defection of Romania in August) was that the Red Army would end the war in control of all Eastern Europe.



A Soviet officer explains the movements of the Red Army against German forces during Operation Bagration

EVAN MAWDSLEY is Honorary Professorial Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow. His publications include *The War for the Seas: A Maritime History of World War II* (Yale University Press, 2019) and *World War II: A New History* (2nd ed., Cambridge University Press, 2020).

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Which WWII battle do you think was the most significant? Email your thoughts to *haveyoursay@historyrevealed.com*

POSTCARDS FROM

In May this year, as the world was locking down, *BBC History Revealed*, with HistoryExtra.com, launched a competition for children aged 6–13 designed to challenge their historical knowledge and imagination. Their task: to write and draw a postcard from the perspective of a historical person living in a past lockdown.

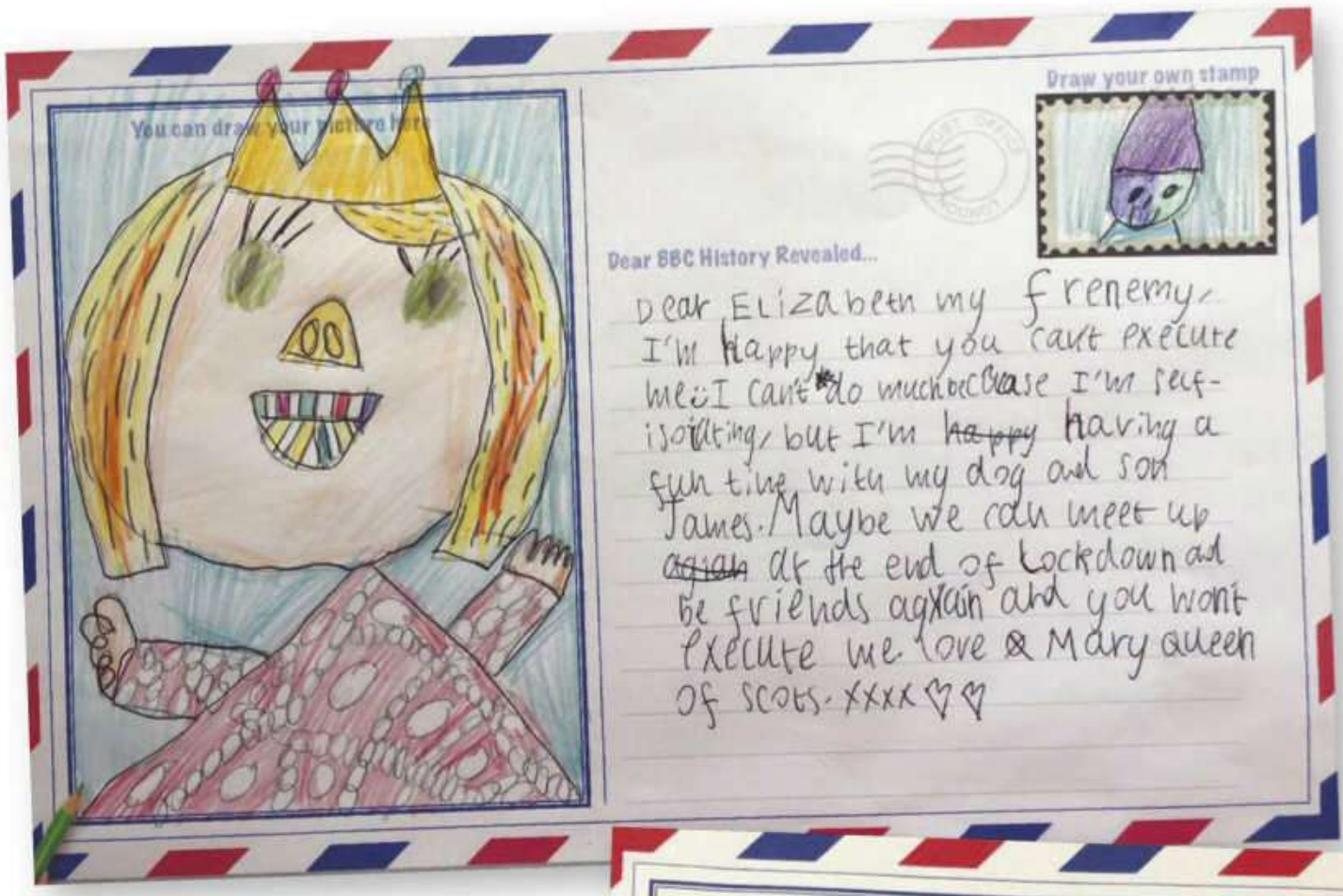
The response has been amazing, with more than 600 children across the UK putting pen to paper and channelling their inner historians.

The panel of judges was bowled over by the sheer variety of characters chosen – from Elizabeth I, Blackbeard the Pirate and Martin Luther King, to Ötzi the Iceman, Boudicca and Samuel Pepys the artistic talent, imagination and breadth of historical knowledge.

Sadly, there could be only ten winners, whose entries you can read over the next four pages. A huge thank you and well done to everyone who entered your postcards brought many smiles to the whole magazine team.

You can find out more about the competition, see a selection of other entries – including some 'highly commended' postcards – at *historyextra.com/pastpostcards*. Congratulations to all ten winners!

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor


You can draw your picture here
Draw your own stamp
Dear BBC History Revealed...
Dear Elizabeth my frenemy,
I'm happy that you cant execute me. I can't do much because I'm self-isolating, but I'm having a fun time with my dog and son James. Maybe we can meet up at the end of lockdown and be friends again and you won't execute me. love Mary queen of scots. xxxx

NAME: **Annika Chapman, Bristol**
AGE: **6**
WRITING AS: **Mary, Queen of Scots**
JUDGES' COMMENTS: **"Captured the relationship between the two queens very well"**

Dear Elizabeth, my frenemy,
I'm happy that you can't execute me. I can't do much because I'm self-isolating, but I'm having a fun time with my dog and son, James. Maybe we can meet up at the end of lockdown and be friends again and you won't execute me.
Love Mary, Queen of Scots

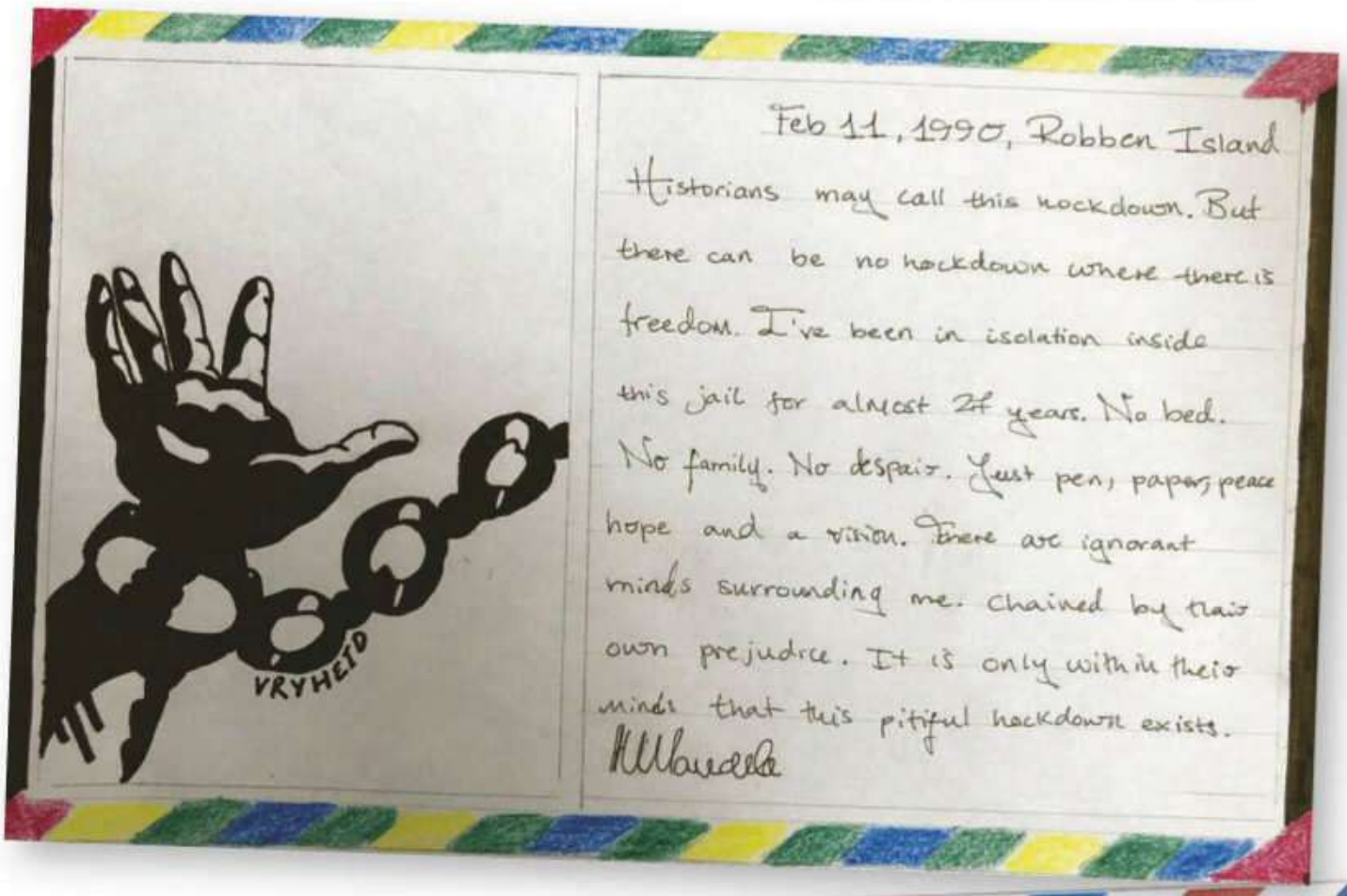
You can draw your picture here
Draw your own stamp
Dear BBC History Revealed...
My name is Anne Frank and love writing. The Nazis have just broke in to my house but we are hiding behind a bookshelf in a secret passage. The Nazis are ripping down walls and tearing up carpets. I hope they don't find us! My diary keeps me occupied through these tough times as I love writing about my day. Thank you for reading this.
Love Anne Frank.

NAME: **Eva Bewicke, Tyne & Wear**
AGE: **12**
WRITING AS: **Anne Frank**
JUDGES' COMMENTS: **"Great sense of atmosphere and a fantastic drawing"**

My name is Anne Frank and I love writing. The Nazis have just broken into my house but we are hiding behind a bookshelf in a secret passage. The Nazis are ripping down walls and tearing up carpets. I hope they don't find us! My diary keeps me occupied through these tough times, as I love writing about my day. Thank you for reading this.
Love, Anne Frank

THE PAST

COMPETITION WINNERS

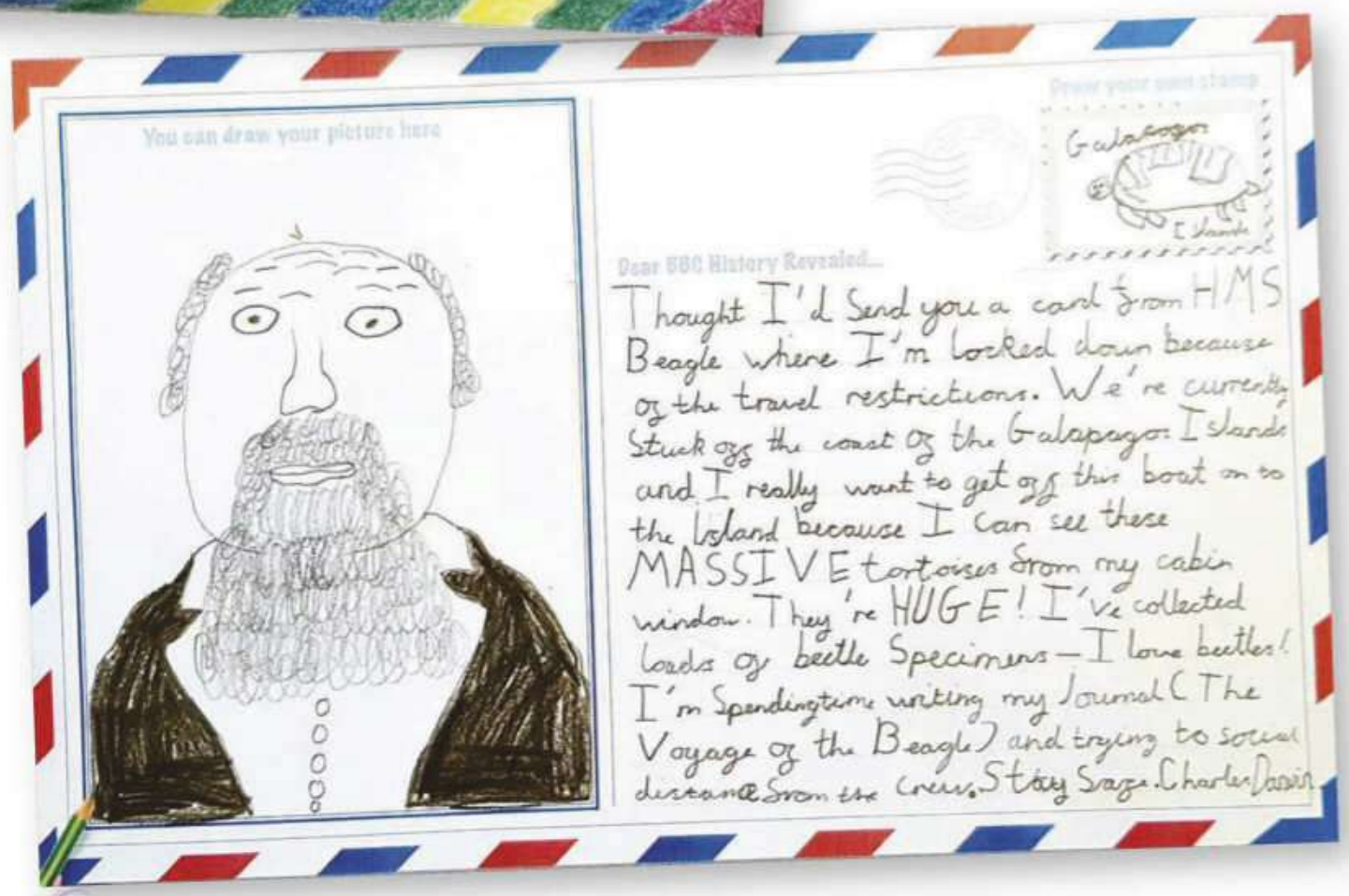

Feb 11, 1990, Robben Island
Historians may call this lockdown. But there can be no lockdown where there is freedom. I've been in isolation inside this jail for almost 27 years. No bed. No family. No despair. Just pen, paper, peace hope and a vision. There are ignorant minds surrounding me, chained by their own prejudice. It is only within their minds that this pitiful lockdown exists.
VRYHEID

NAME: **Christopher Turner, London**
AGE: **13**
WRITING AS: **Nelson Mandela**
JUDGES' COMMENTS: **"Moving and very inspiring"**

Historians may call this lockdown. But there can be no lockdown where there is freedom. I've been in isolation inside this jail for almost 27 years. No bed. No family. No despair. Just pen, paper, peace, hope and a vision. There are ignorant minds surrounding me, chained by their own prejudice. It is only within their minds that this pitiful lockdown exists.

NAME: **Lucas Embery, Suffolk**
AGE: **9**
WRITING AS: **Charles Darwin**
JUDGES' COMMENTS: **"We loved Darwin's tortoise excitement!"**

Thought I'd send you a card from HMS *Beagle* where I'm locked down because of the travel restrictions. We're currently stuck off the coast of the Galapagos Islands and I really want to get off this boat onto the island because I can see these MASSIVE tortoises from my cabin window. They're HUGE! I've collected lots of beetle specimens – I love beetles! I'm spending time writing my journal (*The Voyage of the Beagle*) and trying to social distance from the crew. Stay safe. Charles Darwin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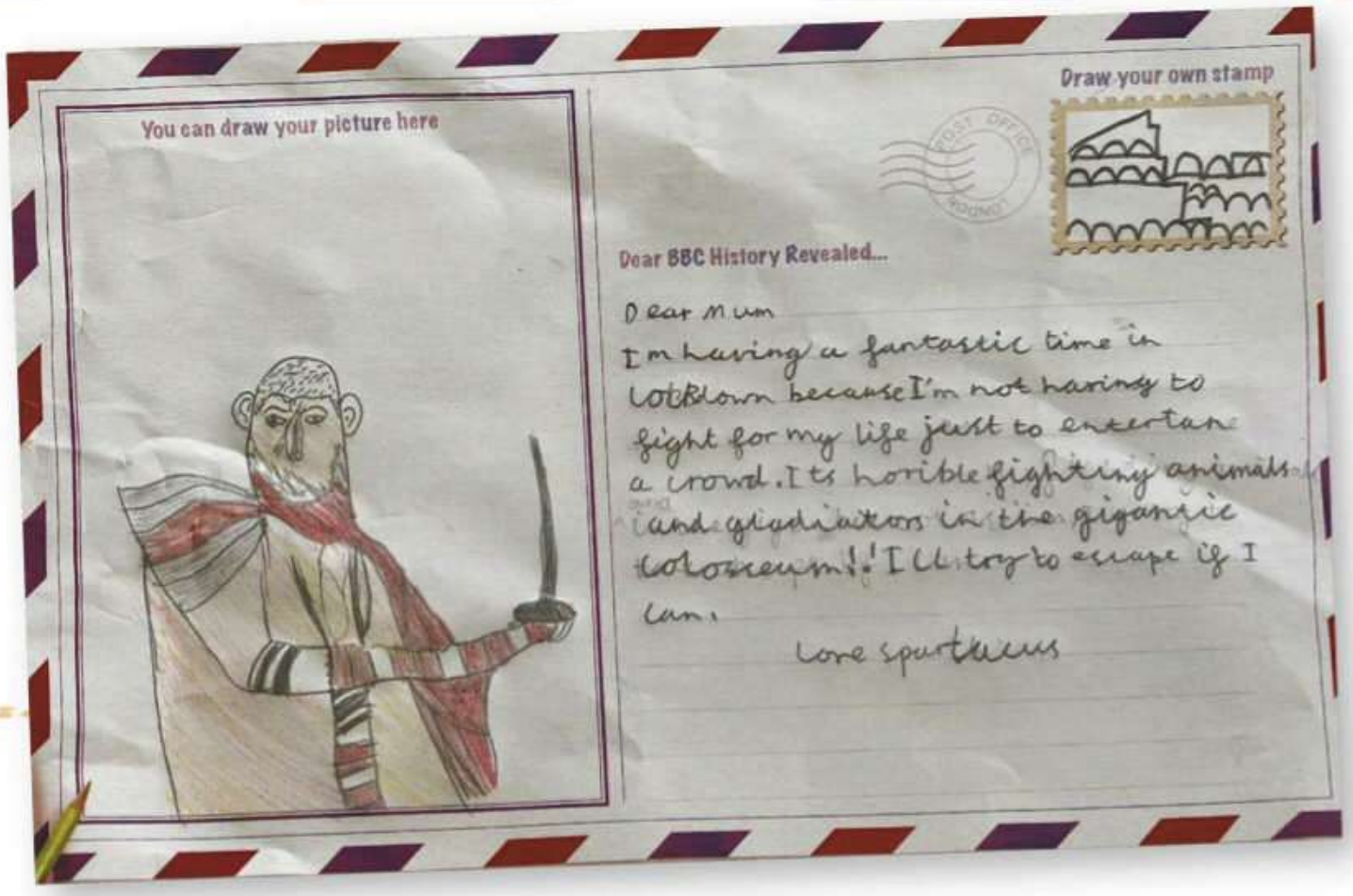
GETTY IMAGES X3

NAME: **Ethan Davison, Essex**
AGE: **7**
WRITING AS: **Spartacus**
JUDGES' COMMENTS: **"Loved the menacing drawing"**

Dear Mum,
I'm having a fantastic time in lockdown because I'm not having to fight for my life just to entertain a crowd. It's horrible fighting animals and gladiators in the gigantic Colosseum! I'll try to escape if I can.
Love Spartacus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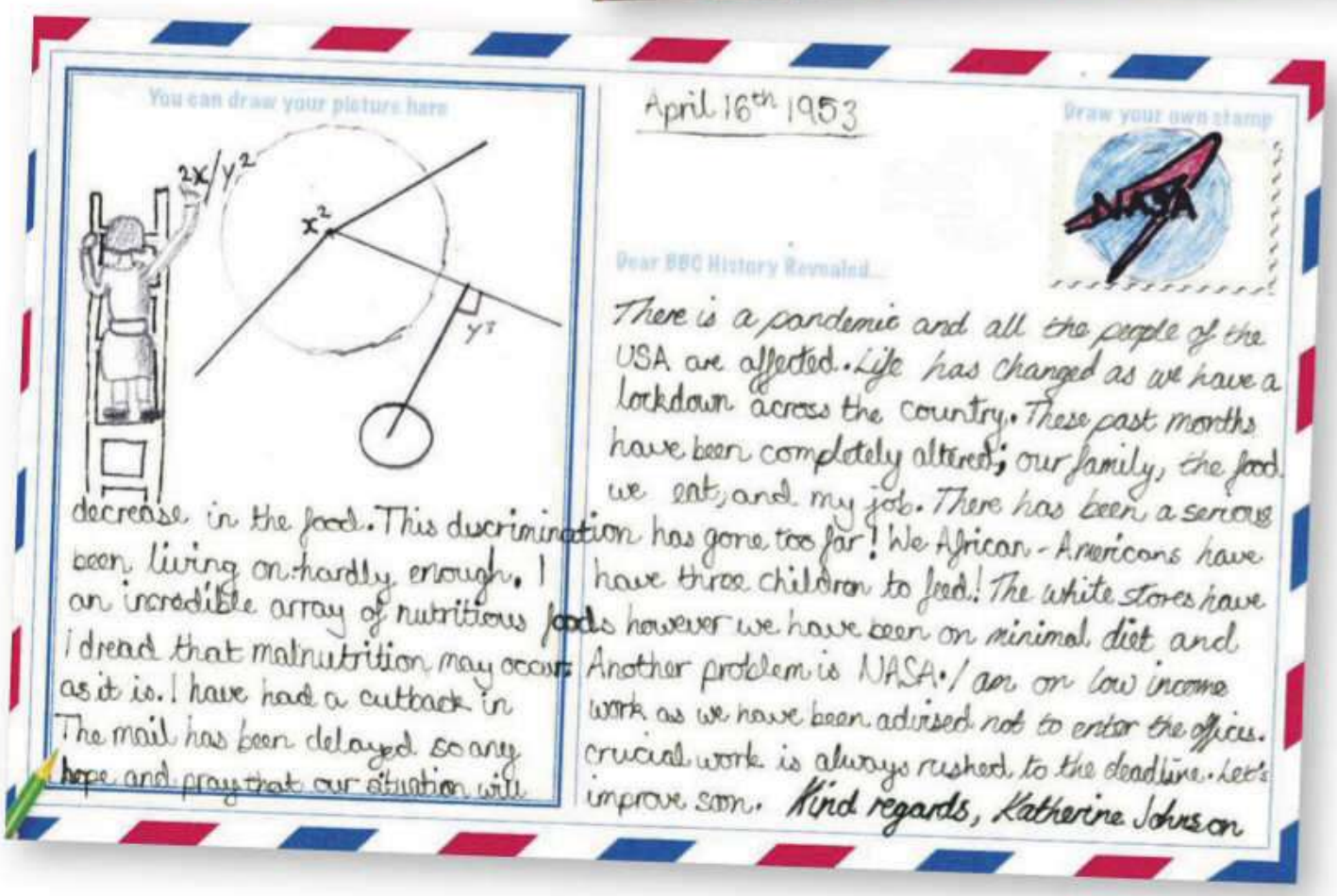
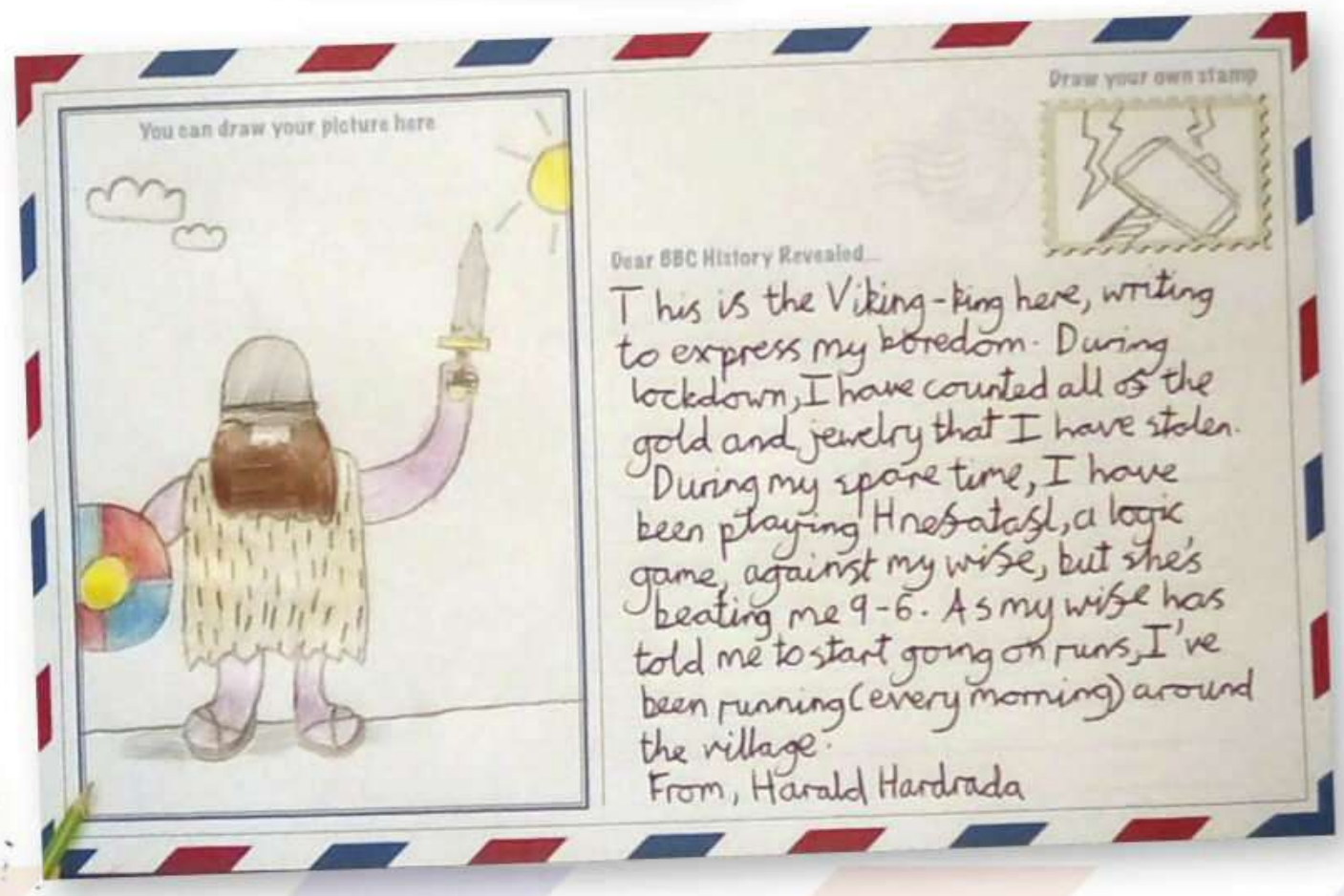

You can draw your picture here
April 16th 1953
Draw your own stamp
Dear BBC History Revealed...
There is a pandemic and all the people of the USA are affected. Life has changed as we have a lockdown across the country. These past months have been completely altered; our family, the food we eat, and my job. There has been a serious decrease in the food. This discrimination has gone too far! We African-Americans have been living on hardly enough. I have three children to feed! The white stores have an incredible array of nutritious foods however we have been on minimal diet and I dread that malnutrition may occur. Another problem is NASA. I am on a low income as it is. I have had a cutback in work as we have been advised not to enter the offices. The mail has been delayed so any crucial work is always rushed to the deadline. Let's hope and pray that our situation will improve soon. Kind regards, Katherine Johnson

NAME: **Erin Gray, East Yorkshire**
AGE: **11**
WRITING AS: **Katherine Johnson**
JUDGES' COMMENTS: **"Great character choice and use of imagination"**

This is a pandemic and all the people of the USA are affected. Life has changed as we have a lockdown across the country. These past months have been completely altered: our family, the food we eat and my job. There has been a serious decrease in the food. This discrimination has gone too far! We African-Americans have been living on hardly enough. I have three children to feed! The white stores have an incredible array of nutritious foods, however we have been on a minimal diet and I dread that malnutrition will occur. Another problem is NASA. I am on a low income as it is. I have had a cutback in work as we have been advised not to enter the offices. The mail has been delayed so any crucial work is always rushed to the deadline. Let's hope and pray our situation will improve soon.
Kind regards, Katherine Johnson

NAME: **Cameron Barnes, South Yorkshire**
AGE: **13**
WRITING AS: **Harald Hardrada**
JUDGES' COMMENTS: **"Impressive knowledge of Viking games"**

This is the Viking king here, writing to express my boredom. During lockdown, I have counted all of the gold and jewellery that I have stolen. During my spare time, I have been playing Hnefatafl, a logic game, against my wife, but she's beating me 9-6. As my wife has told me to start going on runs, I've been running (every morning) around the village.
From, Harald Hardrada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From, Harald Hardrada

NAME: **Caitlin Rawden**
AGE: **9**
WRITING AS: **Henry VIII**
JUDGES' COMMENTS: **"Excellent Tudor knowledge"**

Cromwell,
I am King, quarantine should not apply to me or my future wife. I am stuck at Rochester, waiting for Anne, and your infernal policy has her stuck in Deal. She'd better be worth this endless wait. You've promised me that she is as influential as Catherine was, that she is gentile, unlike the charming Anne, and as likely to give me a son as Jane. I have some faith in Holbein's ability to portray her accurately as he did when he painted me. However, if I am not satisfied, heads will roll. I order you to lift this accursed lockdown now, regardless of what physicians are advising, or I will strip you of your titles and change the law anyway. HR

You can draw your picture here
Draw your own stamp
JAN
1540
Dear BBC History Revealed...
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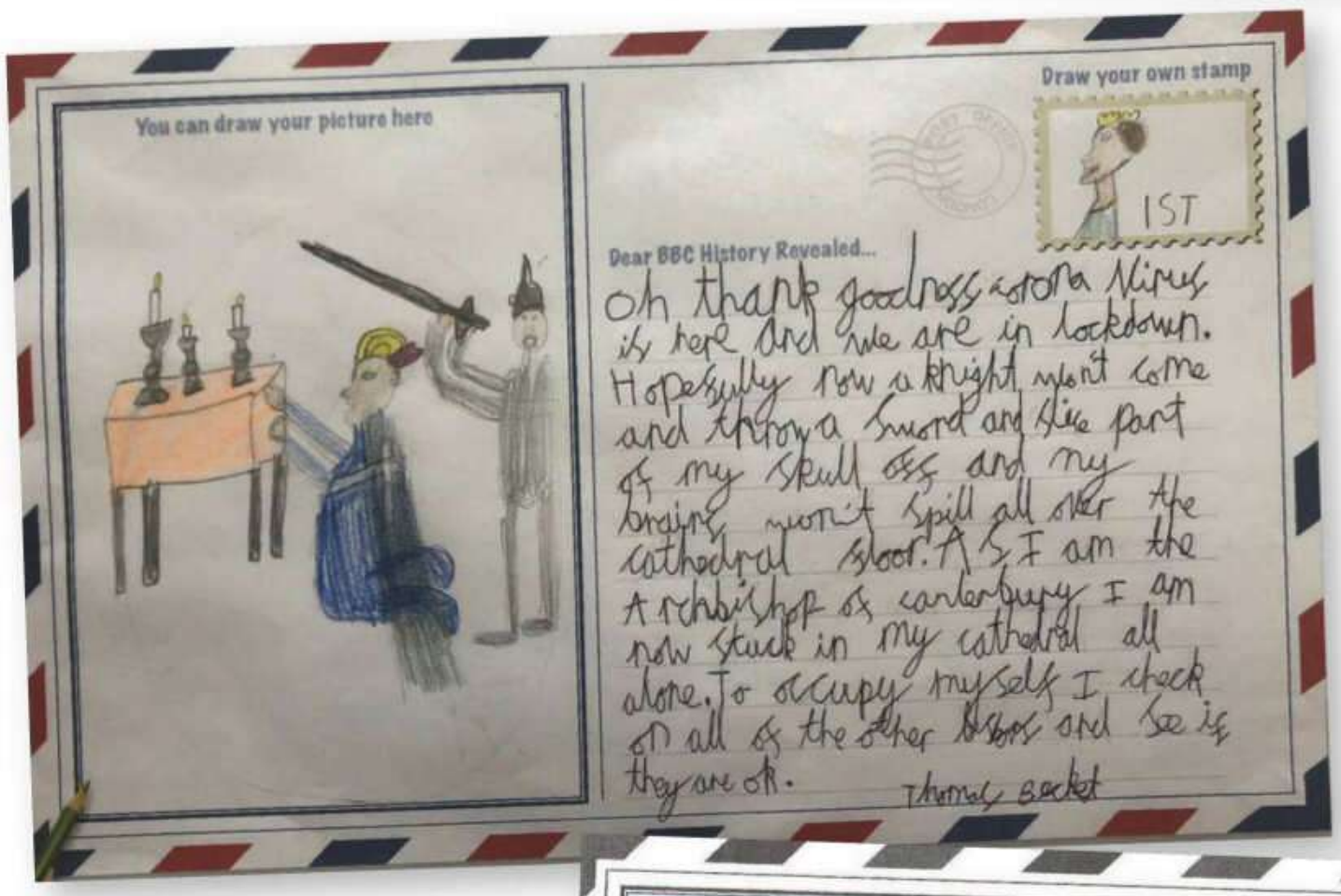
H.R

NAME: **Emilia Harrison, Cheshire**
AGE: **8**
WRITING AS: **Thomas Becket**
JUDGES' COMMENTS: **"Loved the drama and detail"**

Oh thank goodness coronavirus is here and we are in lockdown. Hopefully now a knight won't come and throw a sword and slice part of my skull off and my brains won't spill all over the cathedral floor. As I am the Archbishop of Canterbury, I am now stuck in my cathedral all alone. To occupy myself, I check on all of the other bishops and see if they are ok.
Thomas Becket


You can draw your picture here
Draw your own stamp
1ST
Dear BBC History Revealed...
Oh thank goodness corona virus is here and we are in lockdown. Hopefully now a knight won't come and throw a sword and slice part of my skull off and my brains won't spill all over the cathedral floor. As I am the Archbishop of canterbury I am now stuck in my cathedral all alone. To occupy myself I check on all of the other bishops and see if they are ok.
Thomas Becket

NAME: **Luca Griffin, Worcestershire**
AGE: **8**
WRITING AS: **King Arthur**
JUDGES' COMMENTS: **"Lovely drawing. Surely every garden needs an Excalibur! "**

In lockdown, the Knights of the Round Table have been busy while I have been gardening with Excalibur. I have grown some carrots, potatoes, potatoes, broccoli and asparagus. I have also been cutting the hedge down with Excalibur. My sword has been very useful in lockdown.
From King Arthur

You can draw your picture here
Draw your own stamp
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From King Arthur.

WHAT IF... THE ROMANOVS SURVIVED?

Jonny Wilkes talks to **Dr Helen Rappaport** about the role the former tsar and his family could have played in Russia's revolutionary history, if any – and if they had a chance of survival in the first place

Russia was in turmoil long before Tsar Nicholas II and his entire family were brutally murdered by the Bolsheviks. The first of two revolutions in one year erupted in early 1917 – as World War I raged on – from mass protests in the capital of Petrograd (St Petersburg), forcing Nicholas to abdicate and ending more than 300 years of imperial rule. Then, later that year, a second revolution broke out, which saw Vladimir Lenin and his Bolsheviks seize power, hurling the country into civil war.

In this maelstrom, many believed the formerly imperial family, under house arrest, were too dangerous to be kept alive. "They were murdered. There was no trial, no due process of law, no sentence and no right of appeal. It was a tenet of Lenin's Bolshevik agenda that the old aristocracy and monarchy should be systematically liquidated," says historian Helen Rappaport, author of a trilogy of books on the Romanovs. "Lenin would not risk allowing the Romanov children to survive because they could at some point become a rallying point for counter-revolution."

Had any of the Romanovs escaped and survived, even if not Nicholas himself, monarchists certainly would have held them as a symbolic figurehead for their cause; a propaganda tool in the war against the 'Reds'. Lenin's fears that the Romanovs could spark a counter-revolution may have been exaggerated, says Rappaport, as the monarchist groups were hopelessly organised across many separate and often rival factions and lacked funding. "Some of their 'rescue plans' were so airy fairy as to be laughable," she adds.

A living Romanov would not have been enough to bring about the return of the monarchy. To begin with, Nicholas had no desire whatsoever to be tsar again, instead wishing for a quiet life with his family. There may have been lingering hopes of seeing his son Alexei on a restored throne, but Alexei's haemophilia had made him extremely ill by 1918 and, claims Rappaport, he may not have lived much longer anyway. Even if he had, the 'White' forces, which included monarchists, still needed to prevail in the war and even then, a lot of them did not want a restored monarchy. "They simply wanted to get rid of the Bolsheviks," says Rappaport.

"The Romanovs had pretty much reconciled themselves to their fate by July 1918 – although not for one moment did Nicholas and his wife Alexandra ever imagine their children would be killed too." The seeds of the tsar's abdication, on 15 March 1917, had been planted with an earlier revolution in 1905 when Nicholas had not kept his promises of constitutional reforms. "He was an autocrat who believed he had a God-given duty to preserve the monarchy at all costs."

By 1918, the tsar's sense of duty had been replaced by exhaustion. "Nicholas knew he might well pay the ultimate price and by the time the family were taken to Ekaterinburg, they knew there was no way out," says Rappaport. "The house was impregnable, the monarchists could not mount a coherent rescue, and the Brits knew staging a rescue was impossible."

Going into exile in another country was the Romanovs' best chance of survival – if they had escaped captivity or were never placed under house arrest in the first place – and Britain was the most rational choice. Nicholas's cousin, King George V, initially wanted to help welcome the family into the country.

IN CONTEXT

Tsar Nicholas II came to the throne of Russia in 1894, but, weak-willed and unsuited to the role of autocratic ruler, he faced opposition and unrest throughout his reign. Revolution broke out in 1905, in the midst of a disastrous war with Japan. The tsar's reputation plummeted again during World War I and, after another revolution, he was forced to abdicate on 15 March 1917.

The Russian Empire had fallen, and with it the ruling Romanov dynasty, after more than 300 years in power. Under the Provisional Government, Nicholas and his family were placed under house arrest, but the Bolsheviks seized power in the so-called October Revolution and wanted the Romanovs gone. During the night of 16-17 July 1918, Nicholas, his wife Alexandra, and their five children were taken, with some of their servants, to the basement of the house in Ekaterinburg. There, they were shot, bludgeoned and stabbed to death.

A Bolshevik propaganda poster featuring their leader, Vladimir Lenin

GETTY IMAGES X3

MAIN: **The tsar with his wife and children in 1913, five years before their brutal murder at the hands of the Bolsheviks**

LEFT: **Nicholas II (*left*) was a first cousin to George V**

In truth, as Rappaport states: "The British never came close to getting the Romanovs out of Russia. They were a hot potato that the British government did not want to handle and George was forced to concede." Regardless, the Romanovs would have gone into exile extremely reluctantly and only if forced.

Still, if the Romanovs had not been taken to Ekaterinburg and if they managed somehow to escape Russia and if a country like Britain accepted them, exile could have ensured the family's survival. But even in those circumstances, suggests Rappaport, the Romanovs would not have lost those qualities which had seen them grow so out of touch with the Russian people. "They would not have wished to live in the exile community of London or Paris. And Alexandra would not have borne the humiliation of her reduced circumstances very well."

Preferring quiet, private lives in the countryside, it's unlikely that the exiled Romanovs would have been drawn into politics or foreign affairs, or shown any interest in the outcome of the civil war back home. They hated violence – under house arrest, they had expressly discouraged rescue attempts that might cause the deaths of others – and held little influence other than symbolic. They would probably have become reclusive and more religious, a side effect of which, says Rappaport, was that the daughters may have found it difficult to leave the family and marry.

For the Romanovs to have survived would have required myriad events and circumstances to have gone differently, plus a number of imponderables going the right way. And even if that all happened, it is hard to see how much they could have changed events in Russia, let alone allow the possibility of a return of the monarchy to be contemplated. If the Russian Revolution had not taken place at all, it would of course be a completely different story.

"And yet", says Rappaport, "if you look at the veneration of the Romanovs in Russia today, it is interesting to see that there has been considerable discussion about the restoration of the Romanov monarchy, albeit a ceremonial, puppet one." ⊙

"UNDER HOUSE ARREST THEY HAD EXPRESSLY DISCOURAGED RESCUE ATTEMPTS THAT MIGHT CAUSE THE DEATHS OF OTHERS"

DID YOU KNOW?

ROMANOV RUMOURS

As the Bolsheviks only announced Nicholas's death, rumours spread that the children survived – the most famous being Anastasia, with several women pretending to be her in later years. The truth finally came to light with the exhumation of the Romanov family's bodies in the 1990s.

LISTEN

BBC RADIO 4 Helen Rappaport discusses the life and legacy of the Romanovs in an episode of *Beyond Belief* on BBC Radio 4*: bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bfxxm8*

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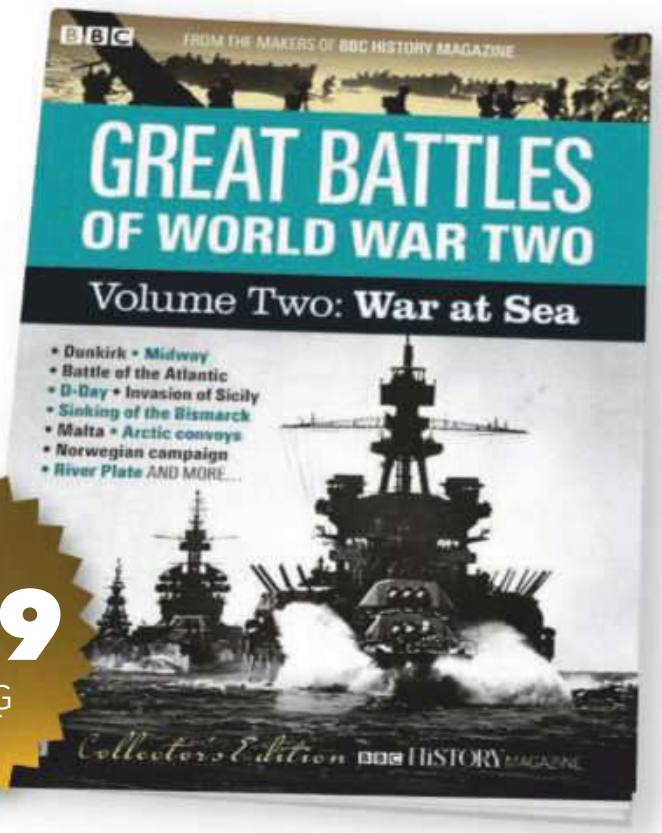
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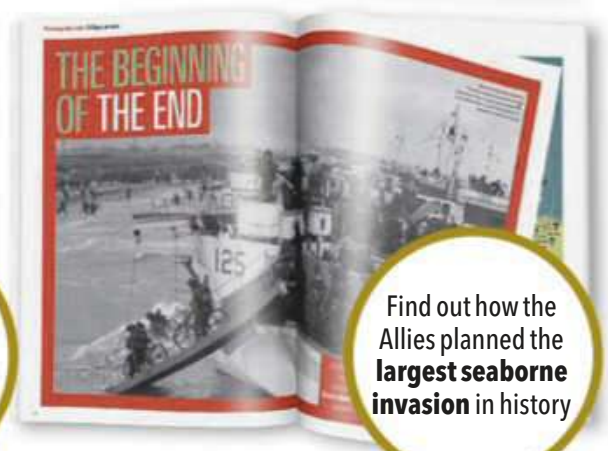

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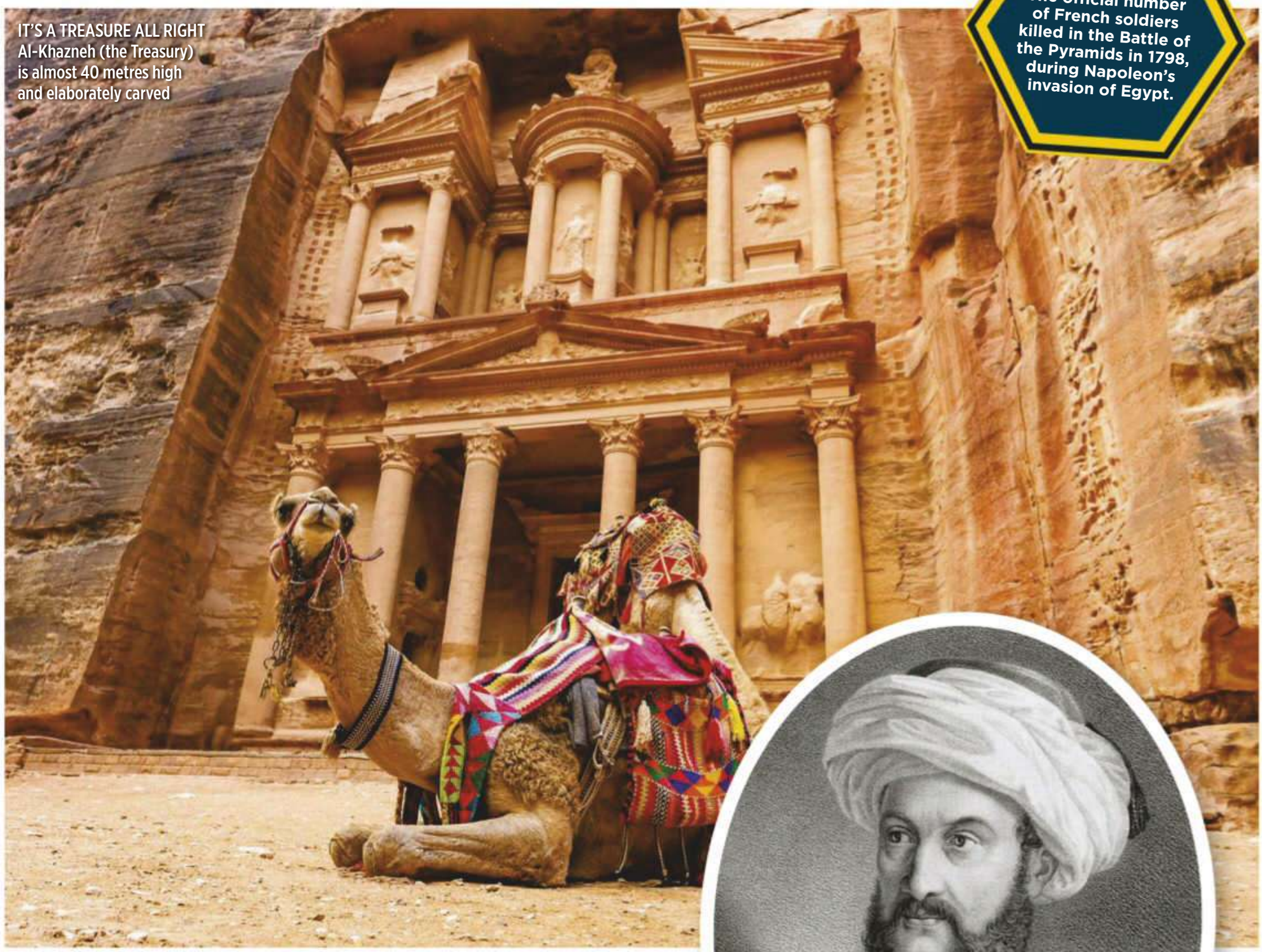
29

The official number of French soldiers killed in the Battle of the Pyramids in 1798, during Napoleon's invasion of Egypt.



IT'S A TREASURE ALL RIGHT
Al-Khazneh (the Treasury) is almost 40 metres high and elaborately carved

When was Petra discovered?

SHORT ANSWER A Swiss explorer going in the wrong direction made Europeans aware of the Rose City for the first time since the Crusades

BURCKHARDT HEADED
Johann Ludwig Burckhardt, in traditional Arabic attire; he lied to his local guides so he could seek out Petra

LONG ANSWER The ruins of Petra may be hidden in a valley in modern-day Jordan, famously accessible through a narrow passage in the cliffs, but the city was never all that lost. When we say 'discovered' then, we should add 'by Westerners'.

The Nabataeans, a nomadic Arab tribe, carved Petra from the terrain in around the fourth century BC and the 'Rose City', named for its sandstone colour, became a thriving capital and trading centre. After its decline from the Roman era, Petra drifted out of European knowledge except for some crusading knights. And so it remained until the 19th century.

In 1812, Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt heard tales of ancient ruins out in a distant valley and decided to look for them. He was meant to be traversing the Sahara for the source of the River Niger, but told his guides that he wished to sacrifice a goat at those ruins, as they were supposedly near the tomb of Aaron, brother of Moses. Burckhardt couldn't stay long – fearing the locals would see him as nothing more than a pilfering infidel – but he marvelled at Petra's most famous sight, Al Khazneh (the Treasury), and the temple of Qasr al Bint. Before leaving he sacrificed a goat, just to be safe.

GETTY IMAGES X2

A STAB IN THE DARK Though we know the knife was used by James Bowie (*inset*) there is some debate as to who made the first one

Why is it called the Bowie Knife?

SHORT ANSWER The hunting knife was notoriously wielded by one of the leaders at the Alamo

LONG ANSWER The hard drinking, rough-fighting frontiersman James Bowie was something of a celebrity, even before he fought and died in the doomed defence of the Alamo Mission in 1836 – a battle of famous accessories, as another Alamo leader was Davy Crockett of raccoon-skin hat fame. And Bowie, of course, had his knife.

Bowie had gained notoriety and made national news for wielding a distinctive hunting knife several years before the Alamo, when he was caught up in a duel turned-mass brawl. At the Sandbar Fight of 1827, the ferocious Bowie stabbed and killed Major Norris Wright, despite having been shot and stabbed himself. As one version of the story goes, the knife Bowie carried had been made to his instructions by an Arkansas blacksmith named James Black. That said, another claim is that it was Bowie's brother, Rezin, who had the iconic blade made by a different smithy, Jesse Clift.

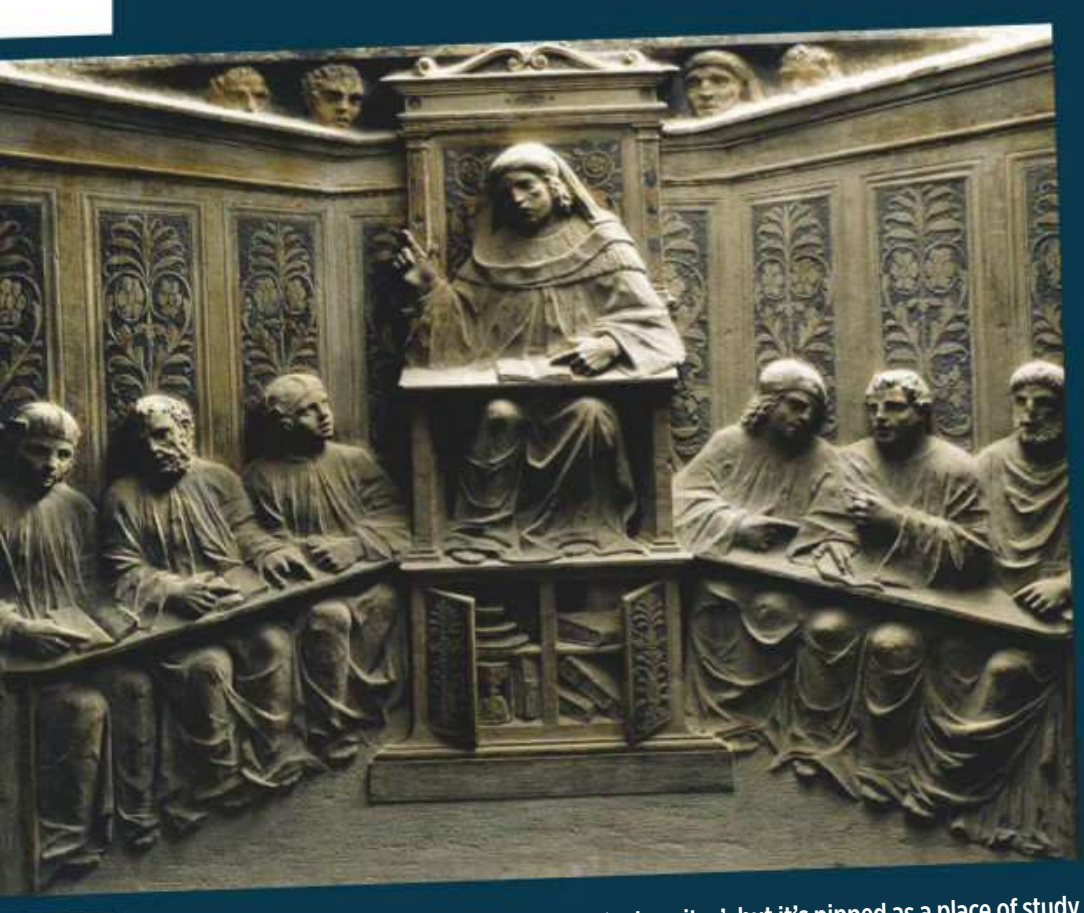
What was the Spartans' greatest victory?

SHORT ANSWER Best known for losing with style against the Persians, Sparta perhaps claimed its biggest win over a Greek rival

LONG ANSWER We know about their deeds at the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC – when 300 Spartans legendarily stood against the Persian army – but that was, in the end, a defeat. Surely the war-centric city state of Ancient Greece should be remembered for its victories, too? Sparta racked up quite the collection of wins after rising to military power in the eighth century BC by conquering neighbouring Messenia. By the fifth century BC, the Spartan army was the dominant power in southern Greece.

The year after Thermopylae, Sparta played a major role in the decisive victory over the Persians at Plataea. But arguably its greatest victory came in 405 BC when it landed a killer blow against its main Greek rival, Athens, at Aegospotami. That naval victory – strangely enough considering how renowned their land-based army was – ended the protracted Peloponnesian War and elevated Sparta to the height of its power.

SEA CHANGE A naval battle made Sparta the preeminent military power



SCHOOL OF THOUGHT Bologna was the first 'universitas', but it's pipped as a place of study

What is the world's oldest university?

SHORT ANSWER Bologna... no wait, Al Quaraouiyine... well, there goes the history degree

LONG ANSWER There's some confusion over this one – looks like we historians need to go back to school. The University of Bologna in Italy commonly tops the rankings with a founding date of 1088, beating Britain's oldest (Oxford). Bologna was also first to use the term *universitas* and gave us the phrase 'alma mater' from their motto *alma mater studiorum* (nourishing mother of studies).

But challenging Bologna is the University of Al Quaraouiyine in Fez, Morocco. Founded by Fatima al-Fihri, daughter of a wealthy merchant, it was originally a mosque large enough for 22,000 people and a madrasa, a place of education. It became a learning centre of the Muslim world and since its doors opened in AD 859, there seems to be no contest from any European institutions. But the issue is that Al Quaraouiyine didn't officially become a university until the 1960s. That's a long time to wait for a degree.

BAYING FOR BLOOD
Blood and his accomplices proved light fingered, but certainly not fleet of foot

Have the Crown Jewels ever been stolen?

SHORT ANSWER Very nearly, in 1671, when a trickster named Blood went after the bling

LONG ANSWER The (new) Crown Jewels had only been around for a decade – forged after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, seeing as the old jewels had been sold off, melted down or sent into hiding – before an audacious thief got his hands on them.

Eccentric Irishman Thomas Blood played a long con, dressing up as a parson and befriending the elderly Tower of London guard, Talbot Edwards. They grew so close over several meetings that Blood even proposed marriage between Edwards' daughter and his own fictitious nephew.

Then, on 9 May 1671, the self-styled 'Colonel' or 'Captain' Blood showed up with three accomplices and things got nasty: they beat and stabbed Edwards (though not fatally) and got to work. Blood flattened the crown to hide under his cloak, sawed the sceptre in half, and one man stuffed the orb down his trousers. The robbery was over quickly, though, as they failed to fight their way out of the Tower.

Facing execution for treason, Blood had one more trick to play. He asked to be brought before Charles II himself. The King was so tickled by the foolhardy thief's cheek and bravado that he actually rewarded Blood with a pardon, an estate, money and a position at court.

459

The number of years that Denmark was ruled alternately by a Frederik or a Christian, from 1513 to 1972.

DID YOU KNOW?

I'M BATMAN!

Melbourne was briefly known as 'Batmania' in the early days of its settlement in the 1830s, after explorer John Batman arrived in what is now the Port Philip Bay area and negotiated with Aboriginal leaders for some 500,000 acres of land.

CALENDAR ERROR

English playwright William Shakespeare and Spanish novelist Miguel de Cervantes died on the same date, 23 April 1616, but ten days apart. England still used the Julian calendar whereas Spain had adopted the Gregorian.

PLAY FOR YOUR LIVES

In 1911, Wyoming State Penitentiary formed a baseball team out of convicts, including death-row inmates who were told their executions would be delayed if they kept winning. They won all four of their games.

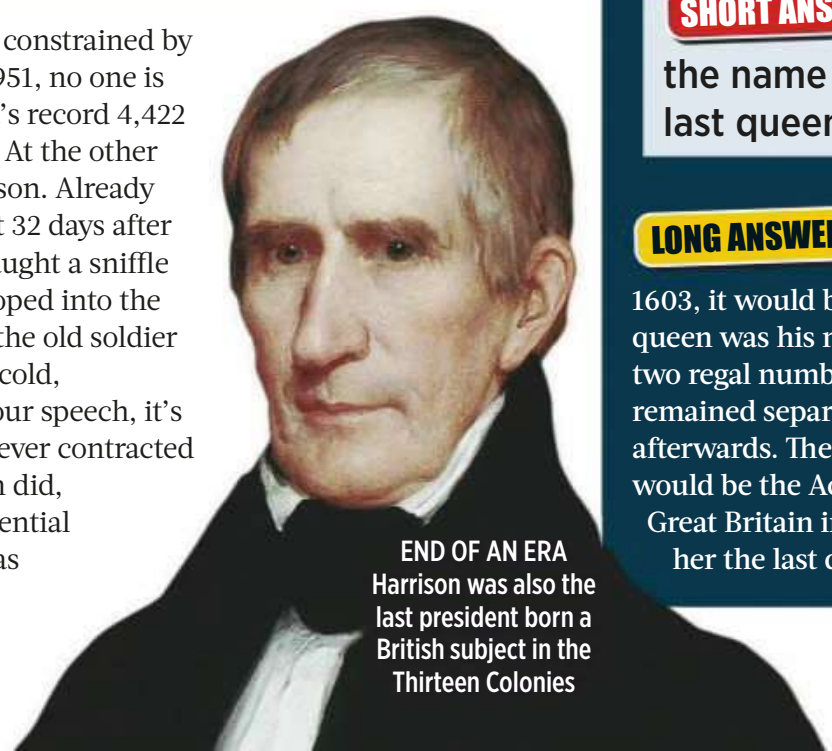
KARMA CARMANIA

During WWI, the lavish German passenger ocean liner SMS *Cap Trafalgar* was disguised as a British ship, RMS *Carmania*, so it could sneak up and attack enemy shipping. The imposter ship was found by the real RMS *Carmania*, which sank it.

Who had the shortest US presidency?

SHORT ANSWER It is said a president's first 100 days are crucial; William Henry Harrison only got a third of the way

LONG ANSWER As presidents have been constrained by a two-term limit since 1951, no one is going to overtake Franklin Delano Roosevelt's record 4,422 days as commander-in-chief any time soon. At the other end of the spectrum is William Henry Harrison. Already 68 when elected, he died on 4 April 1841 just 32 days after taking office. The popular belief is that he caught a sniffle on the day of his inauguration, which developed into the pneumonia that killed him. While it is true the old soldier refused to wear a coat, gloves or hat on that cold, wet day before launching into a near two-hour speech, it's more likely that he succumbed to a type of fever contracted after drinking contaminated water. Harrison did, however, end up with something of a presidential legacy: his grandson, Benjamin Harrison, was elected nearly 50 years later.



END OF AN ERA
Harrison was also the last president born a British subject in the Thirteen Colonies

Who was the last queen of Scotland?

SHORT ANSWER Don't be fooled by the name Mary, Queen of Scots – the last queen came a century later

LONG ANSWER As James VI and I unified the thrones of Scotland and England in 1603, it would be reasonable to conclude that the last queen was his mother Mary, Queen of Scots. As James's two regal numbers suggest, though, the countries remained separate kingdoms for over a century afterwards. There were two crowns, just on one head. It would be the Acts of Union that united the nations into Great Britain in 1707, during the reign of Anne – making her the last queen of Scotland.

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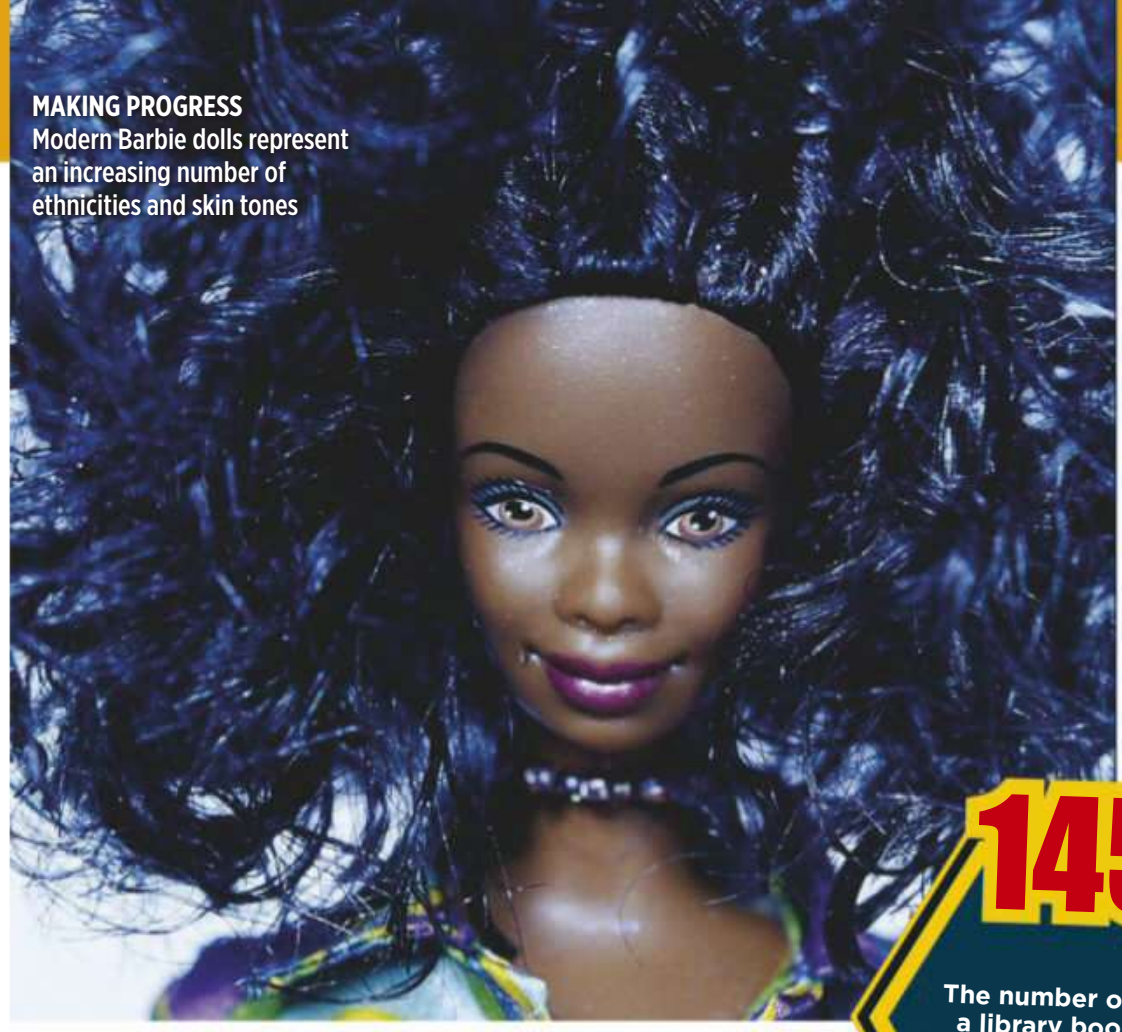


MAKING PROGRESS
Modern Barbie dolls represent an increasing number of ethnicities and skin tones

When was the first black Barbie sold?

SHORT ANSWER It was more than 20 years after the original Barbie that the first black doll appeared, but there's a catch

LONG ANSWER Since the first Barbie hit the shelves in 1959, she has had more than 200 jobs – from fashion model to surgeon, news anchor to presidential candidate. By the time a black doll appeared, Barbie had been a registered nurse, flight attendant and an astronaut. That first black doll, however, wasn't even Barbie at all.

First sold in 1967, her name was 'Colored Francie' as she had been made with the same mould as Barbie's (white) cousin, Francie. The two Francies were identical other than their skin colour. The first specially made black doll, Christie, arrived the following year, but children had to wait until 1980 to have the first official black Barbie, complete with elegant red dress and afro.

145

The number of years a library book was returned late in 1968 to the University of Cincinnati.

How were the Olympic rings chosen?

SHORT ANSWER The rings were designed by the father of the modern Olympics to bring every nation together

LONG ANSWER It is fitting that the pioneer of the first modern Olympic Games – Pierre, Baron de Coubertin – was also the man who designed the flag. The five interlocking rings on a white background first flew at the 20th anniversary meeting of the International Olympic Committee in Paris, by which time there had already been five games, starting in 1896. World War I meant the flag wouldn't be seen in its full glory until the 1920 Olympics in Antwerp, Belgium. Baron de Coubertin gave each ring a different colour – blue, yellow, black, green and red – as they, along with the white, would represent a colour seen on the flag of every nation. "This, truly, is an international emblem," he said of his design.

FLYING THE COLOURS The rings were intended to unite the world, in a fashion

What was the Affair of the Diamond Necklace?

SHORT ANSWER Deceit, diamonds and damaged reputations: a scandal that brought France nearer to revolution

LONG ANSWER The people of France hated Marie Antoinette so much that when they heard of a scandal involving a ludicrously expensive necklace in the 1780s they blamed the whole thing on her – even though she wasn't involved. It began when a confidence trickster with delusions of grandeur, calling herself Comtesse de la Motte, hatched a plan to steal a diamond necklace made by the royal jewellers Boehmer and Bassenge.

Worth 1.6 million livres and boasting nearly 650 diamonds, it was so extravagant that even Marie Antoinette hadn't wanted it. So, the faux Comtesse roped in her lover, the disgraced Cardinal de Rohan, to purchase the necklace, convincing him that it was on behalf of the queen and that she could ensure his reconciliation at court. She forged letters and arranged a night-time meeting in the gardens of Versailles between Rohan and 'Antoinette' (actually, a prostitute).

Rohan secured the necklace and handed it over to Motte, who had it broken up and sold, but things unravelled when the jewellers came asking for payment. The cardinal was exiled and the faux Comtesse flogged and branded with a 'V' for *voleuse* (thief). The worst was for Marie Antoinette, however. Although totally unaware of the events, her reputation was irreparably damaged, just a few years before revolution broke out.

DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER
As was the damage to Marie Antoinette's reputation

MYSTERY ON THE MARCH
The fate of the Ninth Legion remains one of history's enduring conundrums

What happened to the Ninth Legion?

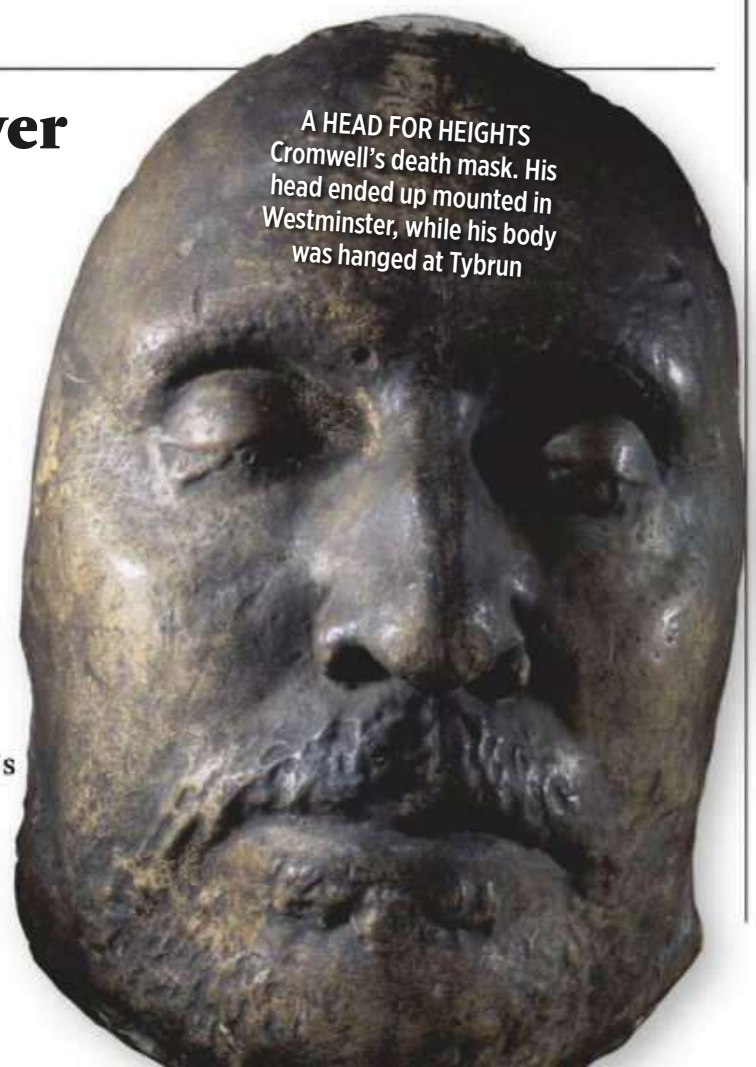
SHORT ANSWER It's yet another historical mystery, although the simplest explanation may be the likeliest

LONG ANSWER Legio IX Hispania completely disappeared in the early years of the second century while in a remote region of the Roman Empire: Britain. Last seen in York, the most likely explanation is that the 5,000 or so men were wiped out by Celtic warriors in northern Britain, a view popularised by the 1954 novel *The Eagle of the Ninth* by Rosemary Sutcliff. It may not be a coincidence that not long after their disappearance, Hadrian arrived in Britain and ordered construction on his wall. Other theories, however, suggest that the legion, or at least some of it, popped up in Nijmegen in the Netherlands a roof tile from cAD 125 bearing the unit number of the Ninths was found there or that the unidentified legion was cut down by the Jews in Judea in AD 132, or the Parthians in Armenia in the AD 160s were in fact the Ninth. But in a list of Roman legions from the mid second century, the Ninth was nowhere to be seen.

What happened to Oliver Cromwell's body?

SHORT ANSWER There was no resting in peace for the Parliamentarian leader

LONG ANSWER On 3 September 1658, Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell died, perhaps of malaria and kidney stone disease, and he was buried at Westminster Abbey in an ironically kingly ceremony. That's the end of that, right? Not quite. Only two years later, the monarchy staged a remarkable comeback and Charles II wanted to make an example of the man who had fought against his father and signed his death warrant. He had Cromwell's body exhumed and subjected to a posthumous execution of hanging and beheading. His head was placed on a spike outside Westminster Hall, where Charles I was tried, for no less than 24 years.



A HEAD FOR HEIGHTS
Cromwell's death mask. His head ended up mounted in Westminster, while his body was hanged at Tybrun

When was the metric system introduced?

SHORT ANSWER

Myriad measurements first got the chop in Revolutionary France

LONG ANSWER Metric is now the official system of measurement for every nation of the world, with just three exceptions: Myanmar, Liberia and the US. The first to change was France. During its revolution, the idea that a monarch's head should be attached to their neck wasn't the only thing to change, as the French Academy of Sciences worked to bring standardised order to measurements. This meant chucking out the estimated 250,000 units of weight and measure being used in the country.

It took years to come up with the metre – 1/10,000,000th of the distance between the North Pole and the Equator – which led to the metric system in 1799. Other nations soon got in on the decimal act, and by 1875 the International Bureau of Weights and Measures had been established. Something that didn't catch on from revolutionary France was the calendar – with its ten-hour days made up of 100-minute hours made up of 100-second minutes. C'est la vie.

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ONE TO WATCH

A group of motley characters – including David Morrissey's Walter Blackett (*inset*) – navigate the fall of Singapore and the British Empire's decline

ITV X2

An empire fading fast

The Singapore Grip / ITV, September

On 15 February 1942, Singapore, one of Britain's key strongholds in Asia, fell to the Japanese. As many as 80,000 troops – Britons, Australians and Indians – surrendered. Winston Churchill noted that this represented "the worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history". At least in part, it's a defeat that can be blamed on a poorly planned and executed defence.

Despite the fact that the British took back control of the territory in 1945, it's difficult now not to see the loss of Singapore as evidence of an empire in long-term decline. Which is probably what drew the Anglo-Irish novelist JG Farrell (1935–79) to offer a satirical take on life in the former colony in *The Singapore Grip* (1978), a novel which mercilessly exposed the snobbery and racism of the colonial elite on the island.

It's a novel that offers rich material for television, and a new six-part drama from Mammoth Screen (*Poldark*, *Victoria*) and ITV makes the most of Farrell's creative largesse. Adapted for the screen by Academy Award-winner Sir Christopher Hampton (*Dangerous Liaisons*), it tells a story centred on the well-to-do Blackett family, headed by rubber merchant Walter (David Morrissey), an ambitious man so self-centred that he's blithely, even arrogantly, unaware of the danger posed by Japan's imperial ambitions.

Walter's cynicism is sharply contrasted with the innocent-abroad idealism of Matthew Webb (Luke Treadaway). The son of Walter's business partner, the urbane Mr Webb (Charles Dance), Matthew finds himself pursued by Walter's spoilt daughter, Joan, (Georgia Blizzard) even as he himself is increasingly drawn to an enigmatic Chinese refugee, Vera Chiang (Elizabeth Tan).

To judge by the first episode, expect a drama of sharp lines, assured performances and action scenes that convey vividly the chaos of Singapore's fall.

Look out for an interview with Sir Christopher Hampton, where he explains the book's debt to *War And Peace*, on *historyextra.com*

Eugène Delacroix's 1831 painting *Liberty Leading The People*, commemorating the 1830 Paris uprising. Simon Schama discusses this and other seminal Romantic works of art, music and literature

Reimagining the world

Simon Schama: The Romantics and Us / BBC Two, September

To understand our modern world, contends Simon Schama, it helps to understand those who did so much to imagine it into being: the Romantics, with their emphasis on emotion and individualism. In the century after the French revolution of 1789, he argues, their influence was so huge that "we still think with their mind, we feel with their emotional heartbeat, we see with their eyes and we listen with their ears".

A dauntingly big and even contentious idea? Perhaps, but it's difficult to imagine anyone better than art historian Schama (*A History Of Britain*) to back up such an argument, which he does over three episodes in a series that touches on visual art, music, literature and because the leading Romantics were always engaged with the wider world politics.

The series begins with scenes of Schama at a political march a way to show how the Romantics replaced pilgrimage, in which paying homage was central, with taking to the streets as an act of insurrection. It's an idea given artistic presence by *Liberty Leading The People*, Eugène Delacroix's painting commemorating the Paris uprising of 1830 (*pictured above*), which saw the reactionary Charles X of France (1757 1836) driven from power.

Other figures we meet during the series include Théodore Géricault (*The Raft Of The Medusa*), the composer Robert Schumann, and poets William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Throughout, Schama teases out connections between the art of the Romantics and the present day, whether that's Mary Wollstonecraft's proto feminism or Coleridge and Thomas De Quincey showing us how to take dangerous journeys into the subconscious.

Simon Schama delves into the world of the Romantics in his latest series

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Family trauma

My Family, The Holocaust And Me / BBC One, September

The 2018 episode of *Who Do You Think You Are?*, where TV presenter and barrister Robert 'Judge' Rinder traced his family history revealed haunting stories of his relatives who were murdered by the Nazis. It also hinted at how the Holocaust continues to cast a shadow over the generations that follow, some of whom suffer from feelings of loss and guilt.

An exploration of this emotional landscape lies at the centre of this two-part documentary, which in part follows Rinder as he discovers further stories of his own family members, such as those who perished at the Treblinka extermination camp (*above*).

In addition, cameras follow other British Jewish people as they gaze into the past, including those who are steeling themselves to look in detail for the first time at what happened to their kin.

Judi Dench portrays headmistress Miss Rocholl in the thrilling historical drama, *Six Minutes to Midnight*

Songs of joy and rage

Soul America / BBC Four, Friday 4 September

Aretha Franklin performs c1968. The iconic soul singer had roots in gospel music, like many other early soul musicians

It's impossible to separate the story of soul music from the wider history of African-American people. This was a music with strong roots in gospel, which in turn drew much of its power from resistance against slavery. It's no coincidence that so many of soul's first generation of stars, including Aretha Franklin, started out in gospel.

But then rhythm and blues intervened – something you can hear happening in 'What'd I Say' (1959) by Ray Charles, a song that mixed up Saturday night dance music with the call and response of Sunday in church. It's just one of the classic tunes featured in 'Amazing Grace', the first episode in a three-part series charting the evolution of soul music, and a programme that also takes in Motown, Memphis-based Stax and the music made in Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

Episode two, 'Say It Loud', named for a James Brown song, considers how musicians reflected deep-seated social issues – inequality, poverty and racism – in their music in the late 1960s and 1970s. It charts the tumultuous years when American cities erupted in rioting and Martin Luther King was assassinated, events that informed records by artists such as The Temptations and Marvin Gaye. The programme also charts the rise of the blaxploitation genre, kicked off by director Melvin Van Peebles' *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song* (1971), which had a soundtrack by the then little-known Earth, Wind & Fire.

In the final episode, 'Sweet Love', the emphasis is on the romantic soul pioneered by the Philadelphia International label. The story ends in the 1980s, with the arrival of hip hop. Carleen Anderson, who found fame with Young Disciples and The Brand New Heavies, narrates.

James Brown is one of many musicians whose work is explored in *Soul America*

Educated hunch

Six Minutes To Midnight / In cinemas Friday 25 September

It's the summer of 1939 and, despite war clouds gathering over Europe, top Nazis have sent their children to a finishing school the Augusta Victoria College in Bexhill on-Sea on the south coast of England. This isn't as counterintuitive as it first appears. The hope is that the youngsters can act as ambassadors for National Socialism – as well as learning how to perfect their English and walk elegantly, of course.

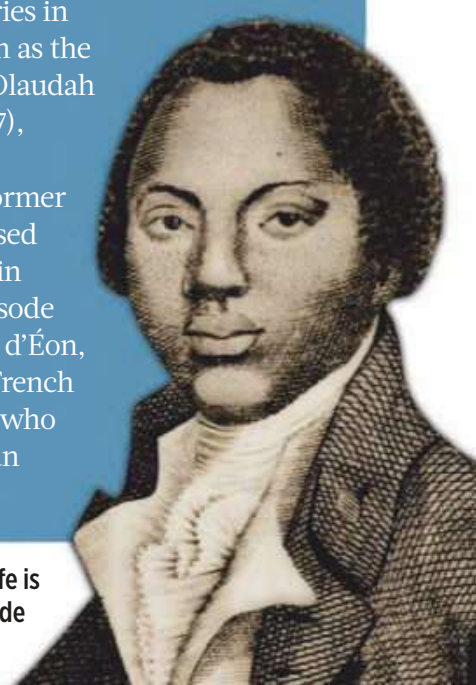
Based on true events, *Six Minutes To Midnight* is a thriller that focuses on a teacher at the school, Thomas Miller, who is suspicious about why high ranking German children are among his charges. When a former teacher is found dead, it's a prelude to further unsettling events, and soon Miller, who faces being hanged for murder, is on the run from the police.

Comedian Eddie Izzard, who co wrote the script with director Andy Goddard (who directed several episodes of *Downton Abbey*) and actor Celyn Jones, stars as Miller. The cast also features Jim Broadbent, while Judi Dench takes on the role of the school headmistress, Miss Rocholl. Carla Juri appears as Rocholl's devout assistant, Ilse Keller.

Surprising stories

Not What You Thought You Knew / Sky History, new episodes from Tuesday 15 September

The second series of Sky History's Dr Fern Riddell fronted offering, *Not What You Thought You Knew*, is out soon. The hook is that historian Riddell focuses on lesser known stories in each episode, such as the incredible life of Olaudah Equiano (c1745 97), an African writer, abolitionist and former slave who purchased his own freedom in 1766. Another episode looks at Chevalier d'Éon, an androgynous French diplomat and spy who lived as both a man and a woman.



Olaudah Equiano's fascinating life is discussed in one episode

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

WHAT TO SEE AND WHERE TO VISIT IN THE WIDER WORLD OF HISTORY

EXPERIENCING HISTORY

With much of Britain adapting to a 'new normal', museums and other historical spaces are continuing to reopen their doors

MUST SEE

The Ashmolean Museum's impressive collections are open to visitors once more

The Ashmolean Museum

OXFORD

https://bit.ly/2XSjOKr

One of the most popular museums in Britain is opening its doors again. In 1683, the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology opened as the world's first university museum, intended to house curiosities from the University of Oxford's impressive collection. It moved to its current location on Beaumont Street in 1894 and underwent an extensive refurbishment in 2009.

Highlights of the museum's collection include the lantern Guy Fawkes was carrying on the night of the Gunpowder Plot, paintings by Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, the Anglo Saxon Abingdon sword, the ceremonial cloak belonging to the father of Pocahontas, Chief Powhatan, and the death mask made for Oliver Cromwell.

The critically acclaimed Young Rembrandt exhibition has been extended until November, giving visitors extraordinary access to the Dutch painter's earliest works. This is a paid exhibition, and tickets must be bought in advance online.

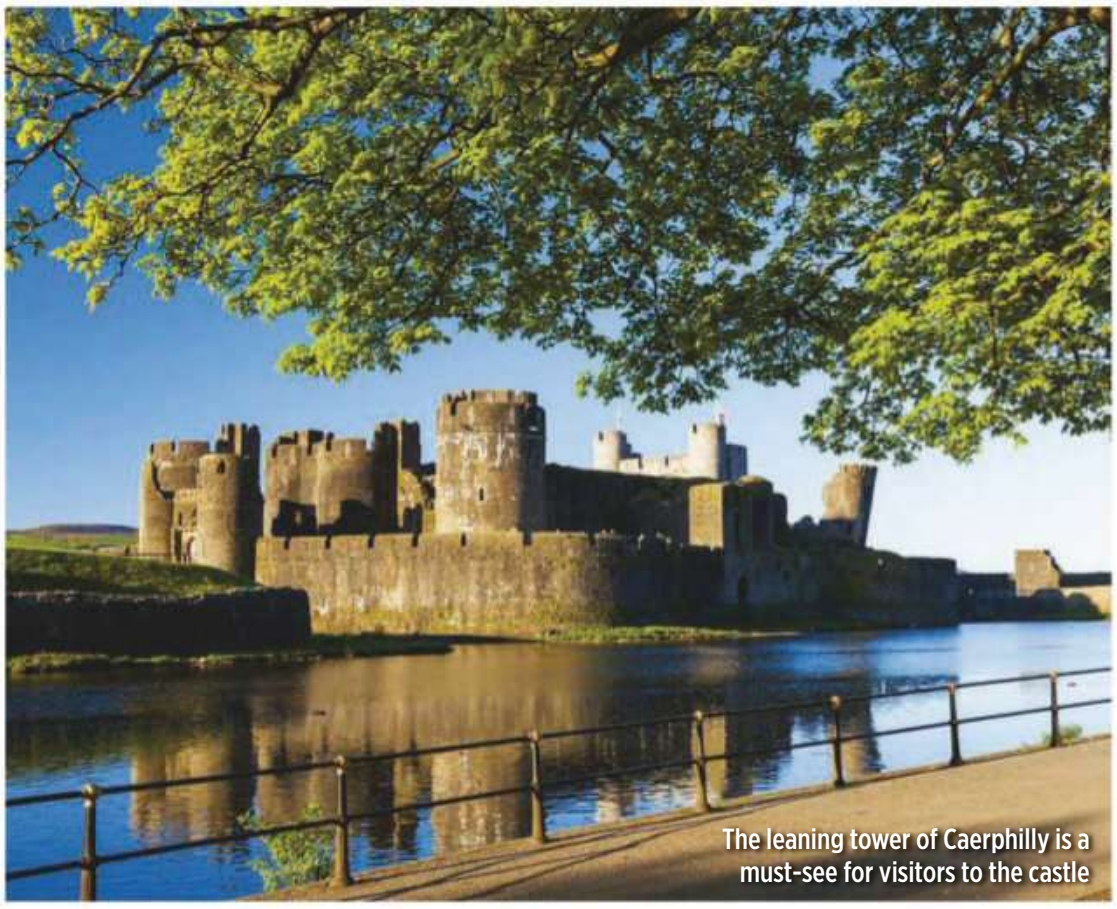
Rembrandt's 1634 self-portrait features in the Ashmolean's paid exhibition

The museum is open to visitors every day between 10am and 5pm. Entry is free, but please be aware that a timed entry slot must be booked in advance. The café and shop are open, although the museum's restaurant is currently closed.

You can see the lantern Guy Fawkes carried when he tried to blow up Parliament

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X3

WHEN VISITING MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL SPACES, PLEASE FOLLOW OFFICIAL SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES AND FACE-COVERING RULES
DETAILS ACCURATE AT TIME OF WRITING – CHECK INDIVIDUAL WEBSITES FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION BEFORE TRAVELLING



The leaning tower of Caerphilly is a must-see for visitors to the castle

Caerphilly Castle

CAERPHILLY, SOUTH WALES

https://bit.ly/3acVJTI

One of the most impressive medieval castles in Wales is welcoming back explorers. With a moat and large gatehouses and sitting on its own island, it's the second biggest castle in Britain. Built in the 13th century, the site has been attacked numerous times and left to ruin, but it still looks like it's just come out of a fairy tale. And just like Pisa, Caerphilly even has its own leaning tower. The castle is currently open from Wednesday to Sunday between 9.30am and 5pm. Visits must be booked in advance. CADW members can visit for free but must still book a timed entry slot.

Jarrow Hall, Anglo-Saxon Farm and Village

JARROW, TYNE AND WEAR

https://bit.ly/3kBKAAn

Head to Jarrow Hall and you'll be able to discover what life was really like in Anglo Saxon Northumbria. The 11 acre site has a farm with animal breeds that would have lived in the area during the Anglo Saxon period, including curly coated pigs and Dexter bullocks. You can also find dotted across the site replica Anglo Saxon timber framed buildings, as well as wattle and daub structures all inspired by local archaeological finds. Within the grounds stands the 18th century manor house, Jarrow Hall, which houses a café. The farm and village are open Thursday to Saturday, and visitors must pre-book a timed entry slot. Please note: the Bede Museum is currently closed.

Anglo-Saxon buildings have been reconstructed based on finds in the area

The Museum of Somerset

TAUNTON, SOMERSET

https://bit.ly/31GuPj1

Located in the 12th century hall of Taunton Castle, the Museum of Somerset houses artefacts detailing the story of Somerset. Exhibits include the Frome Hoard a collection of Roman coins, and one of the largest hoards found in Britain. It was within this hall that Judge Jeffreys, known as the Hanging Judge, held his Bloody Assizes in 1685 that condemned to death many who had been involved in the Monmouth Rebellion against James VII and II. The museum is now open Wednesday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm, by advanced booking only. The shop and café are both open, with the latter offering outdoor seating. However, the Somerset Military Museum remains closed.

Discover how the Somerset landscape was formed millions of years ago and how people have lived and worked in this area for centuries

The sitting room of Jane Austen's home is open to literature lovers once more

Jane Austen's House

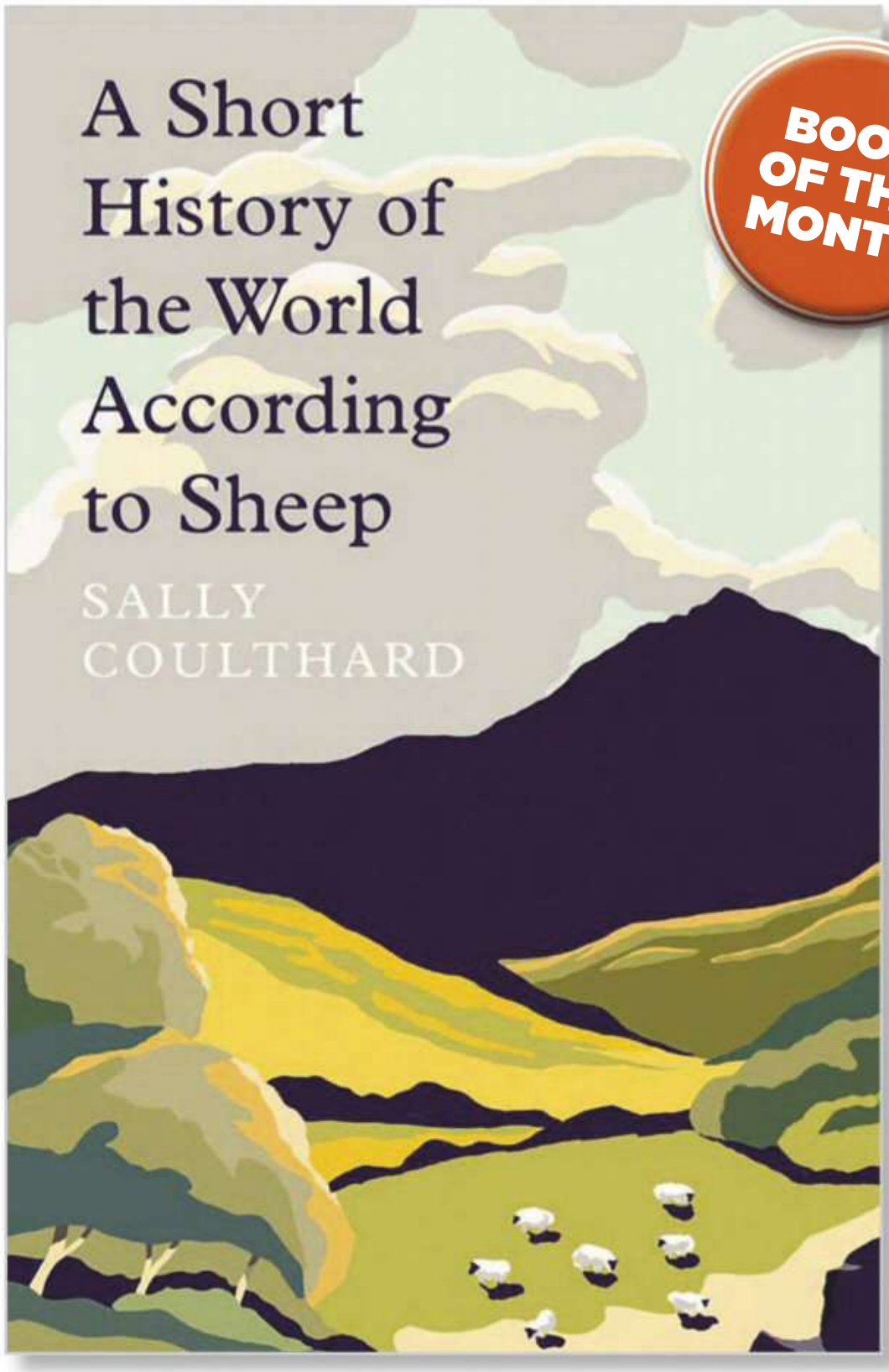
CHAWTON, HAMPSHIRE

https://bit.ly/2DK2z7b

A must visit for any Jane Austen fan, the home where the Georgian writer completed some of her best loved novels has reopened. Jane lived here for the last eight years of her life with her sister, mother and a family friend, and she wrote or revised six of her novels here. As well as housing a collection of Jane's jewellery, the house also boasts the desk at which she used to write. Since reopening, new objects have been put on display, and the house has been reimagined to show how the Austens would have lived in 1816. The house is open from Thursday to Sunday, and tickets must be booked in advance.

BOOKS & PODCASTS

THIS MONTH'S BEST HISTORICAL READS AND LISTENS



A Short History of the World According to Sheep

By Sally Coulthard
Apollo, £16.99, hardback, 320 pages

We've seen books looking at the past through specific prisms before, of course food, boardgames, hats but few have been as seemingly quirky as this ovine history. Far from being a woolly, formless take, this is a considered look at the role of sheep across the centuries, with plenty of insights into what they can tell us about human societies. It helps that sheep by products wool, meat, even blood have proven so versatile, as examples from Roman armour and Egyptian tombs to 20th-century cosmetics illustrate.

Under Fire: Black Britain in Wartime, 1939–45

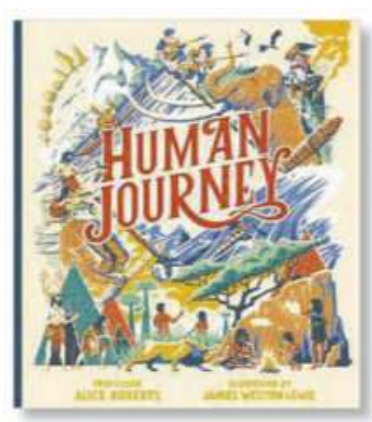
By Stephen Bourne
The History Press, £12.99, paperback, 256 pages

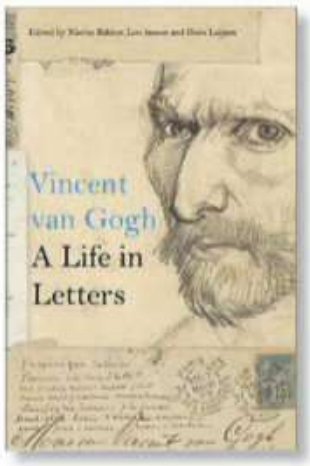
This introduction to the experiences of black men and women during World War II mixes profiles of specific individuals with chapters exploring the wider context. Drawing on first hand accounts, it's a testament to the courage and challenges faced by Britain's black population many of whom had moved from their home countries to help the war effort. Some of the names will be familiar (cricketer and politician Learie Constantine, campaigning doctor Harold Moody for example) while others, and other stories, will be new discoveries.

Human Journey

By Alice Roberts
Red Shed, £12.99, 48 pages, paperback

This beautifully presented book from historian and presenter Alice Roberts guides younger and, honestly, older readers through the first chapters of the human story. Each spread atmospherically depicts a scene in that development, from hunter gatherers to expansion out of Africa to the perils of the Ice Age. A timeline, map and glossary offer more detailed information for those who want to learn more, and the detailed illustrations that dominate each page are sure to spark plenty of questions.





Vincent van Gogh: A Life in Letters

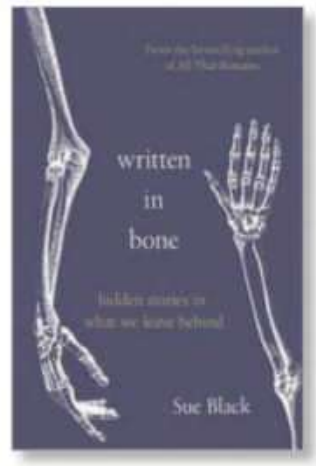
By Nienke Bakker
Thames and Hudson, £30, hardback, 448 pages

The 19th-century painter Vincent van Gogh continues to fascinate, more than a century on – an interest that is as much due to his dramatic personal life as it is his artistic masterpieces. This chronological collection of correspondence gets right to the heart of our ongoing fascination, providing glimpses into the artist's relationships, opinions, hopes and fears. Images of the original letters, together with sketches and paintings, act as reminders of the skill and passion of an original talent.

Green Hands

By Barbara Whitton
Imperial War Museum, £8.99, paperback, 224 pages

This novel, first published in 1943 and part of the Imperial War Museum's Wartime Classics series, follows the stories of Bee, Anne and Pauline as they are conscripted into the Women's Land Army. As they face the camaraderie and hardships of farm work, they also experience wider social suspicions about women doing 'men's jobs'. The fact that the book is based on the author's own experiences makes this both an entertaining read and a valuable document of life as a 'land girl'.



Written in Bone: Hidden Stories in What we Leave Behind

By Sue Black
Doubleday, £18.99, hardback, 368 pages

Written by leading forensic anthropologist Sue Black, who featured in the BBC Two series *History Cold Case*, this is an absorbing look at the stories our bodies can tell after our deaths. Black sets out on a tour around the human body, from skull to phalanges, revealing the evidence that such bones have provided in real-world cases – and how that evidence is obtained. Some of the tales here are, understandably, grisly, but it remains a refreshing, unusual take on history.

HistoryExtra Podcast

Each month we bring you three of our favourite interviews from the HistoryExtra podcast archives...

Visit historyextra.com/podcast for new podcasts every week

THIS MONTH... three podcasts on education

Student life

bit.ly/StudentLifePod

Recorded to coincide with a ten-part BBC Radio 4 series exploring the history of student life, this 2016 interview with *BBC History Magazine*'s Ellie Cawthorne compares the experiences of university students today with those of prior centuries. It's a fascinating look at the kinds of tuition available in the past – and the kinds of people able to benefit from it.

Schools through time

bit.ly/SchoolsThroughTimePod

The start of a new school year is always a big moment – particularly now, amid the ongoing coronavirus crisis. In this 2019 episode, former education secretary Alan Johnson explores the history of schooling in Britain since the Victorian era. The changes during that time, he argues, tell us much about wider social trends and attitudes.

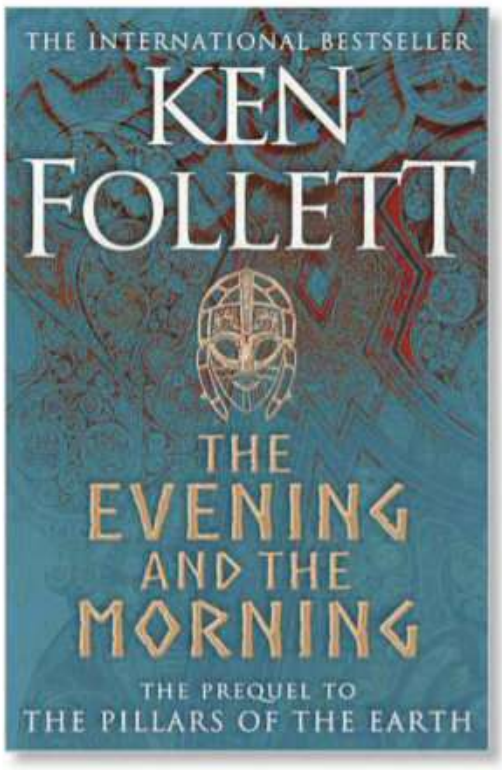
Victorian boarding schools

bit.ly/VictorianBoardingSchoolsPod

From Mallory Towers to Hogwarts, the boarding school has grown to become an icon of British culture. But what was life actually like in a real Victorian boarding school? In this interview, recorded in 2011, historian Jane Hamlett chronicles the experiences of 19th-century pupils, and how their physical surroundings affected their schooldays.

ROBERTO RICCIUTI X1

HISTORICAL FICTION....



The Evening and The Morning

By Ken Follett
Macmillan, hardback, £25, 832 pages

The highly anticipated prequel to *The Pillars of the Earth*, this story, set at the end of the 10th century, sees England facing threats from every side from the Welsh in the west and the Vikings in the east. Three unlikely people a boatbuilder, a Norman noblewoman and a monk are thrown together as they fight against a ruthless bishop intent on gaining power at any cost. Fans of Follett's *Kingsbridge* series will discover how the fictional settlement came into being, with this novel ending right where the acclaimed novel *The Pillars of the Earth* begins.

Excerpt

In this extract, Ragna, a Norman princess newly arrived in Britain, pays a visit to her future husband, an Anglo-Saxon chieftain.

Ragna looked towards where she knew the bed to be. There was a glow from the embers of the fire, and a faint light coming through the small windows. She saw a figure sit upright in the bed and reach for a weapon.

Wilf 's voice said: "Who's there?"

Ragna said quietly: "Good morning, my lord."

She heard him chuckle. "It's a good morning now that you're here." He lay down again.

There was a movement on the floor, and she saw a big mastiff resume his position lying by the fire.

She sat on the edge of the bed. This was a delicate moment. Her mother had urged her not to lie with Wilf until after the ceremony. He would want it, Genevieve had said, and Ragna had known that she would want it too. But she was determined to resist the temptation. She could not say exactly why this was so important, especially as they had already done it once. Her feelings had to do with how happy they both would feel about their marriage when at last they were able to yield to their desires without guilt or fear.

All the same, she kissed him.

OLIVIER FAVRE

Q&A
Ken Follett

Ken Follett is one of Britain's most successful authors and has sold more than 170 million books worldwide. His 1989 novel *The Pillars of the Earth* – a story about the building of a cathedral in a fictional English city – has been followed by two sequels and this new prequel.

***The Evening and the Morning* is set in the earliest time period you've written about so far. Did this cause you any problems?**
Not much was written down by the Anglo-Saxons, so there's room for guesswork. The new book takes us back to the turn of the first millennium. It was a time of technological backsliding. When the Anglo-Saxons arrived in Roman Britain, they ignored the empty villas and built wooden huts. Literacy declined, governments were weak, and the laws were feebly enforced. Not all historians see it this way, though.

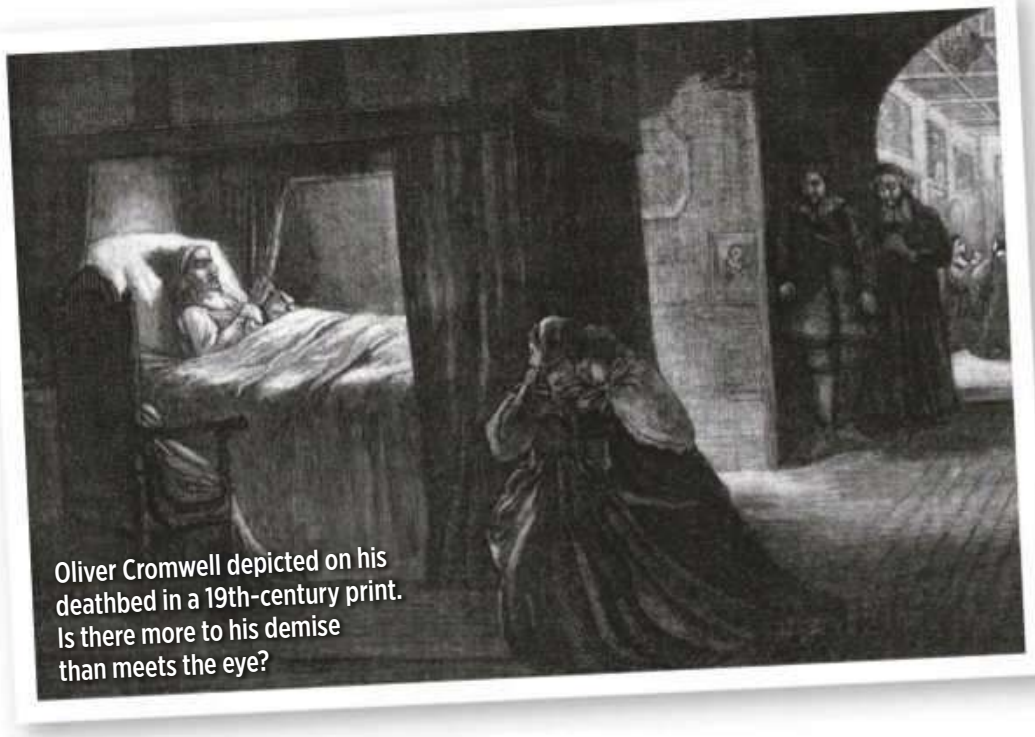
What is your writing process like?
Once I get an idea, I write an outline of the story. This is a really important part of my creative process, and I spend a long time over it – perhaps six months to a year. When I'm finished, the outline is about 50 pages long and quite detailed, and the links between the scenes are set out in that outline. This process is important because in my kind of story, I want you to feel like you have to read one more page before you put the book down and never lose that feeling. I think you really love a book when you're constantly thinking: "Oh my goodness, now what's going to happen?" I'm trying to make sure the story is constantly changing in such a way that the reader is wondering what will happen next.

Why did you decide to have fictional characters as your focus rather than historical figures?
Kingsbridge has appeared in three historical novels of mine, and it has come to stand for England. When I tell stories about great dramatic events, such as the Black Death or the Protestant Reformation, I do so by saying what happened in Kingsbridge.

Why did you decide to write a prequel for *The Pillars of the Earth* rather than continuing the story?
The idea for a novel often stems from a question. Why were the cathedrals built? Why did we have World War I? In the case of my new book, it started with me asking myself what Kingsbridge was like before it was a city. What was there, and how did it grow? Once I started thinking that way, I had a story.

Is there a period of history you'd like to set a book in that you haven't so far, and if so, why?
I've thought about the 19th-century reform movement, but as yet I don't see the personal dramas, which are what a novel is really about. Maybe the French Revolution? There are many possibilities...

LETTERS



Oliver Cromwell depicted on his deathbed in a 19th-century print. Is there more to his demise than meets the eye?

FACT VS FICTION

Having just come out of hospital after recovering from Covid-19, which very nearly killed me, I was delighted to receive the September 2020 edition of *BBC History Revealed* through the post. It certainly helped to lift my spirits, and the subjects covered were thoroughly thought-provoking and entertaining.

I was particularly interest in the historical fiction page. There is a lot of British Civil War material, both fiction and non-fiction, but Miranda Malins' first novel (*The Puritan Princess*), featuring Oliver Cromwell's daughters Bridget and Francis is not only different but is a novel I have to get a copy of.

As Miranda will know, both Richard and Henry – two of the surviving sons of Cromwell – have been written about before by numerous historians, including the late Antonia Fraser in her autobiography of Cromwell: *Cromwell, Our Chief of Men.* Miranda states in her interview that the "Lord Protector was a good conversationalist and a good debater" – is that why he imprisoned 'Honest John Lillburne' and tried his best to break up the Leveller movement? To me, Cromwell comes across as a 'you can have any opinion you like so long as it agrees with mine' type of man. Look at his short-lived parliaments, for example – if they dared disagree he accused them of being corrupt and, as he colourfully explained "sons of whores and not fit to live". Such was Cromwell as a debater.

I would like to see a second novel by Miranda which looks at Cromwell's mysterious death, of so-called 'Tertian Fever' caught on his Irish campaign. A doctor in America a number of years ago suggested he was actually murdered!

Duncan McVee, Lancashire

Editor's reply: Thank you for your thoughts, Duncan. There's no doubt Oliver Cromwell remains a hugely divisive figure in history. We wish you a speedy recovery!

FORWARD THINKING?

After reading your short article about the role of misericords (July 2020) I – and I assume many other readers – thought that misericords must be very old, especially as you usually see them in medieval cathedrals and churches. Therefore you can imagine my surprise when I saw one in the beautiful Parish Church of St Laurence, Ludlow, Shropshire (*pictured below*).

I assume that the misericord must have been carved after 1953 (the year of the present Queen's coronation) or by a carpenter-engraver who also worked as a prescient fortune-teller.

D Lawrence-Young,
Jerusalem, Israel

The Church of St Lawrence in Ludlow boasts 28 medieval misericords, as well as this one (*snapped by reader D Lawrence-Young on a recent trip*), which was created in 2017 to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II.

CROSSWORD WINNERS

The five lucky winners of the crossword from issue 83 are:

R Beckett, South London; B Fabian, Merseyside; A Scott-Palmer, Cornwall; D Ainsworth, East London; R Fraser, Ross

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *The Domestic Revolution,* by Ruth Goodman

Please note, there will be a delay in posting your prize.

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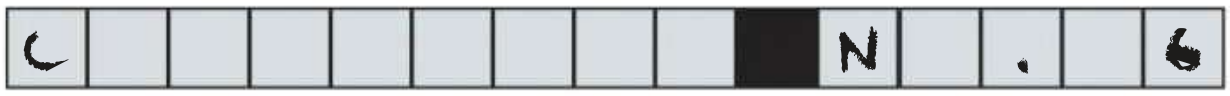
CROSSWORD & PUZZLES

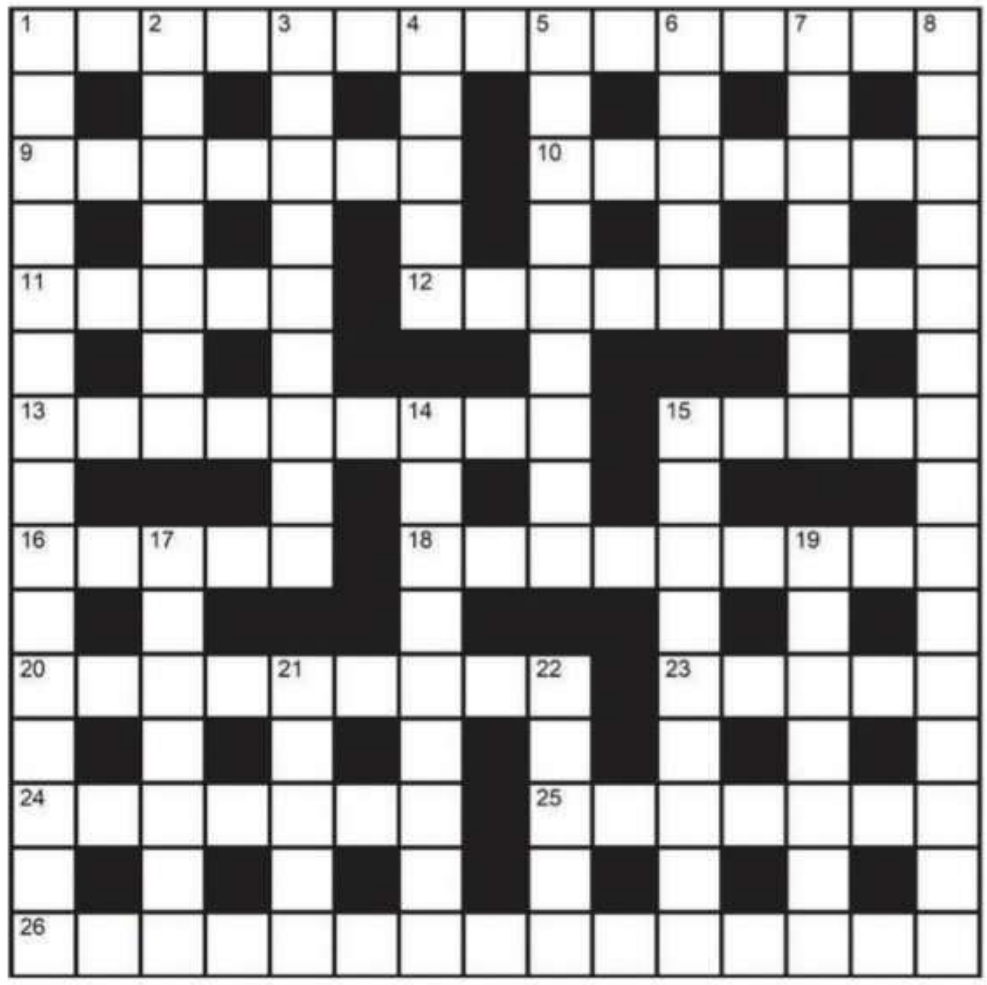
TEST YOURSELF WITH OUR COLLECTION OF BRAIN TEASERS



Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

ACROSS

1 Guerrilla campaign against French rule in North Africa, 1956–57 (6,2,7)
9 Ring ___ (1885–1933), US sportswriter and humourist (7)
10 Girls' school near Brighton, founded in 1885 (7)
11 'I have a ___' – Dr Martin Luther King Jr, 1963 (5)
12 Indigenous people of the south-east US (9)
13 Johannes ___ (d.1468), Mainz-born printing pioneer (9)
15 ___ Wars, conflict between Rome and Carthage, 264–146 BC (5)
16 Wars of the ___, 15th-century conflict between the houses of York and Lancaster (5)
18 Arturo ___ (1867–1957), Italian conductor (9)
20 Historical region of north-east Asia (9)
23 2015 film by Todd Haynes, based on the Patricia Highsmith novel *The Price Of Salt* (1952) (5)
24 Superstate in George Orwell's novel *1984* (1949) (7)
25 Irish term for a speakeasy (7)
26 Exemplars of friendship, in Greek legend (5,3,7)



Set by Richard Smyth

DOWN

1 Adventurer created by HC McNeile under the pseudonym 'Sapper' (7,8)
2 'The measure of our ___ is the measure of our youth' – Rudyard Kipling, 1892 (7)
3 Military booby-traps (9)
4 Name shared by Anglo-Saxon kings of Sussex, Northumbria and Deira (5)
5 Irish airline founded in 1936 (3,6)
6 Ancient language that might be Mycenaean or Koine (5)
7 Roy ___ (b.1936), Australian tennis player, winner of 12 Grand Slam singles titles (7)
8 Name given to the Hawaii archipelago by Captain James Cook (8,7)
14 'I could be well content to ___ the lag-end of my life with quiet hours' – *Henry IV, Part 1* (1597) (9)
15 Terry ___ (1948–2015), British comic novelist (9)
17 Jesus Wants Me For A ___, children's hymn (7)
19 Golda Meir or Dana International, for example (7)
21 Province of China, birthplace of Mao Zedong (1893–1976) (5)
22 Legendary Greek fabulist (5)

CHANCE TO WIN

DVD WORTH £24.99 FOR THREE WINNERS

The Trial of Christine Keeler
Acorn Media

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Post entries to **BBC History Revealed, October 2020 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **october2020@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 November 2020**.

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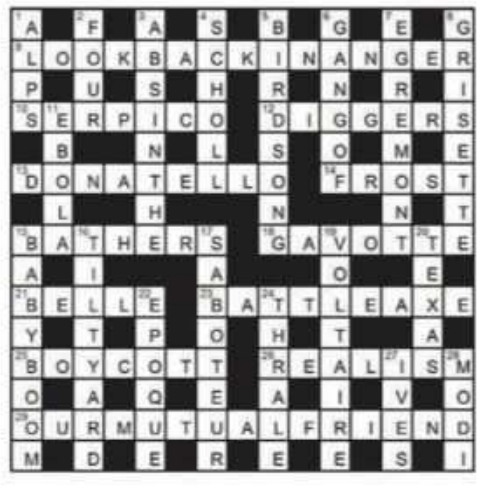
SOLUTION Nº 84



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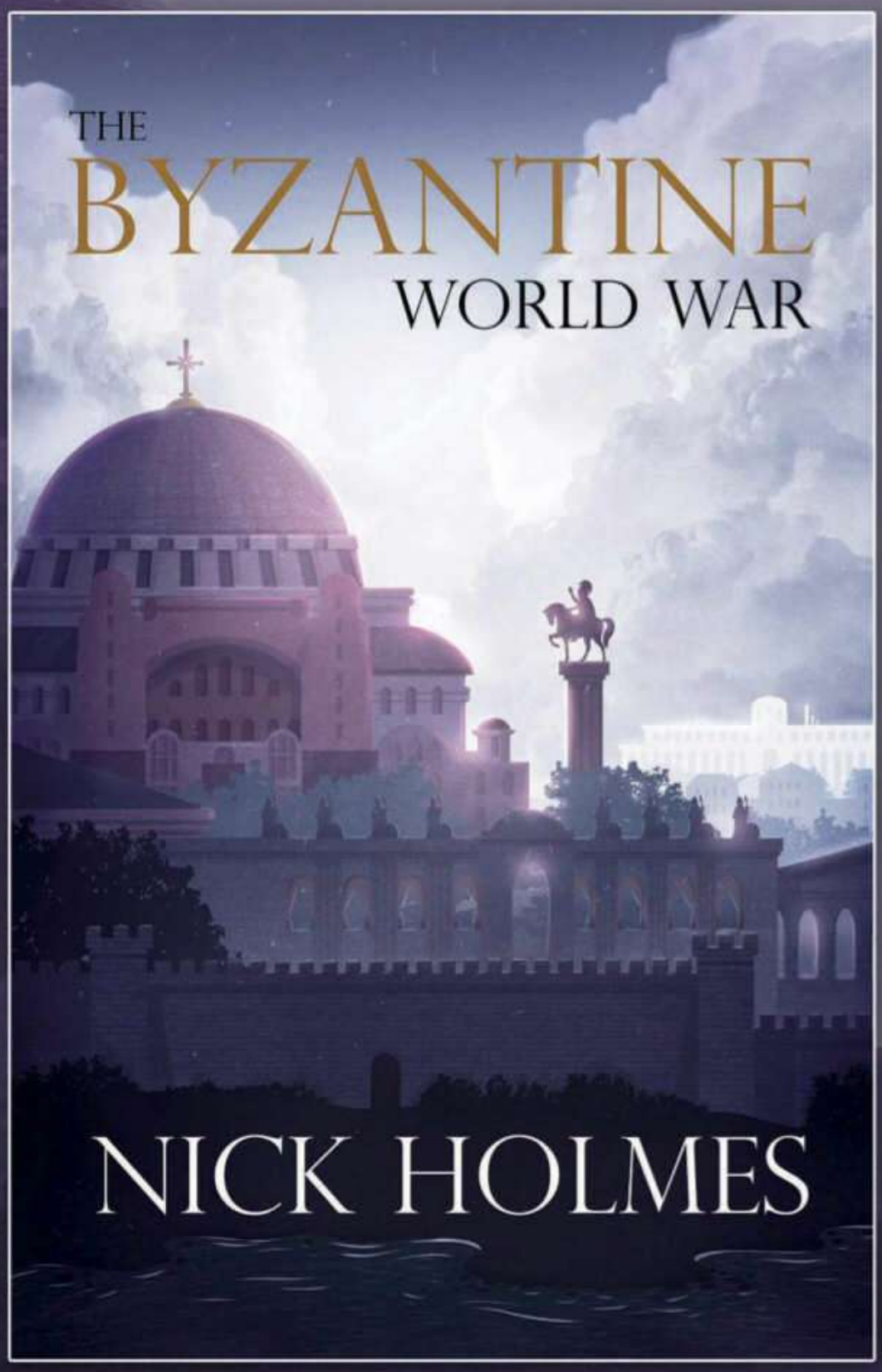
ALAMY

‘WENDY THE WELDER’ AT WORK 1943

During World War II, women across the US and Europe took on new roles to replace the male workforce, which had been sent to fight. Traditionally male-dominated workplaces such as factories and shipyards began employing significant numbers of female employees, like this unnamed woman – a ‘Wendy the Welder’, as she and others would become known – at the Electric Boat Company, Connecticut, which built submarines and other equipment for the US Navy. Government posters were created to encourage women to view taking on these new roles as a patriotic act. Although many women would lose these jobs after the war when the men returned, the seeds of female emancipation had been sown.

GETTY IMAGES

THE CRUSADES SHOOK THE WORLD. BUT WHY DID THEY HAPPEN?



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